



The Ryde School

Pleasant Rise, Hatfield, Herts, AL9 5DR

01707 267333 | www.ryde.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr James Frecknall

2nd September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new headteacher for The Ryde School. I am very much looking forward to getting to know our pupils, families and staff over the coming weeks.

I bring over 20 years of teaching experience across all primary phases, with the last 8 years spent in senior leadership roles in London and Hertfordshire schools. Having achieved my headteacher qualification (NPQH) last year, I am incredibly proud to be taking on my first headship at The Ryde School.

I first visited The Ryde School in February and was immediately struck by the warmth and happiness that surrounds the school. I was greeted by nothing but smiling faces and excited learners, so clearly being taught by a team of dedicated and talented staff, led by Mrs Thompson, to whom I am hugely grateful for the time she has given me throughout my transition. I have very big shoes to fill!

From my experience, I know that a successful and happy school depends on all of us working together. As parents and carers, you make an integral contribution to your children's achievements, and I am excited to build on the relationship between you and the school.

Over the coming term, I will be hosting opportunities to meet, including a coffee morning on **Friday 11th September at 9am**, along with after-school drop-in sessions and a parent/carers survey, more details about which will follow soon.

I will also be available at the school gate both before and after school, so please come and say hello.

My door is always open, and I look forward to meeting you all.

With best wishes,

Mr James Frecknall
Headteacher

