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Headteacher Sir Simon of Wembrook

Newsletter 40

Friday 10th July 2026

Believe and Achieve

A Personal Message from Mr P

Before the madness of our final week together, please forgive me for this self-indulgent newsletter, I think after 20 years I have probably earned the right!

I first came to Wembrook in the summer of 2006, having been a headteacher for five years at a school in Keresley. I didn't know much about the school apart from a LA inspector calling it a "sleeping giant" and there being some work to be done around attainment and sustaining pupil numbers.

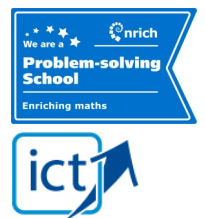
I think it would be fair to say it took me just three days to realise that Wembrook was going to be the professional love of my life. The children were inquisitive, the staff were eager for change and the parents and the wider community so welcoming.

I remember a local senior headteacher, who knew me well, visiting me after about three months in and saying with a big smile "You have found your home" and I had.

The last 20 years have gone in a flash and there have been so many highlights that it seems unfair to pick any of them out, but for you oldies and the increasing numbers of parents who have also been pupils with me, my top five have to include:

- All the Wicksteed days.
- The Wembrook carnival of 2014 when we closed the town centre and over 2000 people came out to watch.
- The regular occurrence when a pupil brings a piece of work demonstrating the learning mountain they have climbed
- The kindness we see daily from so many pupils
- The day a grandma accosted me in Sainsburys and gave me a big hug and said "We've been talking about you today, our kid has just got into University, first one in our family. She has Believed and Achieved"

When I was just 6 years old, I had to write a sentence about what I wanted to be when I grew up. Most friends choose pirates, footballers or astronauts (it was the early 70's !) I drew a man in a suit and wrote, "When I grow up I want to be a headteacher."



And the truth is from that day I never really changed my mind. Why would I? Being in an environment where you are with your friends, you are learning new and interesting things and where you can have fun. I think that 6 year old Simon would very much liked to have been a Wembrook pupil. I think he would firmly believe that he has Believed and Achieved

You will all know that I am one very small cog in the massive Wembrook machine, in which we all play a role. Wembrook is not special because of the staff, or the community, or even the parents or pupils. Wembrook is special because we all work together, we complement each other, we are there for each other and we all want the same thing ...for Wembrook to be as good as it possibly can be.

Next week, as this term has already been, will be an highly emotional week. There will be great sadness but also there will be tears of pride and happiness. As I have told you before, not all primary schools are the same. Wembrook is extremely special.

I must finally end with some thanks.

Thanks to my brilliant staff who have supported and helped me over the many years. Leading them has been so easy.

Thank you to the governors. They have always backed me in whatever madcap idea I have come up with!

Thanks to all the pupils past and present who make each day so unique.

And finally thank you to all the parents and the wider community who have looked after me. It is extremely rare, if not unique, to feel the support and love from a community. I know I am blessed to have that relationship with you.

As several of you have already said to me “Once a Wembrook Headteacher, always a Wembrook Headteacher”. I like the sound of that!!!!

All My Love
Sir Simon of Wembrook



2007



2009



2011



2014



2016



2020