

School Admin. Staff leave

The school and former pupils in general and the school's administrative department in particular will be sad to see the departure of two of its longstanding staff.

Karen Reilly and Diane (Di) Aitken with thirteen and nine years' service respectively are moving on to new careers.

Karen

Sometimes described as 'the Rector's Secretary', Karen was very visible to many former pupils when she herded them into order in the staff room prior to the procession to the annual Prize-Giving. No misbehaving was permitted!

Karen joined the RHS in 2009 from Craigmount, and said that one of her first tasks was the aforementioned 'herding of the cats' on Prize Giving day – quite an introduction. Her main tasks at school included the Annual report, Prize giving duties, Remembrance, timetable and general admin for the Senior Leadership Team. Her two children, Thomas and Samantha attended school, leaving in 2012 and 2014 respectively.

Karen's decision to leave is at least partly due to two very sad bereavements, firstly her husband Jim in April 2020, an early victim of Covid, and more recently her brother. When asked about her favourite memories, she said "It has to be the people and all the laughs we've had, I've really loved all my years at RHS but it's now time to move on to my next chapter". Karen is going to be a Ward Clerk at the Western General Hospital.



2015 RHS Club dinner – Karen on the left of the group - *Le fabuleux le personnel de l'école*



Karen at her desk on the day she left – 4th November 2022

Diane

Di joined the school in 2013, and aside her shared office job, she also had a short spell as a Classroom Assistant. Di's main tasks were SQA secretary (presentations, results), Prom boutique (over 200 outfits), School decorations, including Diwali, Prize-Giving certificates and letters. Her son Liam was Dux in Computing in 2013, and her daughter Natasia was 2015 Dux in Classics.

When asked what she would most miss, she said "the feeling of belonging to such an amazing school, a place where everyone was encouraged to be the best they could be"

Di's next challenge will be at Davidsons Mains Nursery School, also developing her Decoration business – 'To Di For Furniture' - she is a massive advocate for the circular economy (hence the Prom Boutique), her furniture business is another outlet for that, repurposing and refinishing furniture that would otherwise go to landfill.



Diane (3rd from right) as a guest at the 2018 RHS Club dinner School table, with Paul Chambers and others



Di at her desk, 4th November 2022



One of Di's refurbished pieces of furniture

We wish them both well.