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PICTURE SPECIAL: P27



Popular head stands down due to cancer

● Principal bids farewell in emotional assembly



■ Inspiring - James Howarth

AN INSPIRING head teacher at a Grays school who has been fighting cancer for more than three years has stepped down.

James Howarth left the Hathaway Academy, in Hathaway Road, Grays, this week where he has been principal since June 2013.

He has been battling blood cancer since the summer of 2014 and has previously taken leaves of absence while going through treatment.

In a touching message, Mr Howarth said he had taken the difficult decision because his "inconsistent attendance due to illness has begun to impact on student outcomes - the opposite of what I set out to achieve".

Fatima Rodrigues will continue to lead the school in her current role as Acting Principal.

Ian Cleland, Chief Executive Officer at Academy Transformation

By Katie Feehan
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Trust, said: "It is with great sadness that we announce that the Principal of the Hathaway Academy, James Howarth, is leaving the academy with immediate effect.

"Despite his ongoing fight with this terrible disease and the incredible support from The Trust over the past three years, sadly the disease has once more returned and in Mr Howarth's own words, he is unable to give the job his full and ongoing attention.

"In Mr Howarth's absence, Fatima Rodrigues, the Acting Principal, will continue to do the brilliant job she has been doing and offer fantastic stability at this time."

In December 2015, Mr Howarth

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● College bans bottles over acid attack fear, p7

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