# Kevin Fear's departure from Nottingham High School sheds light on financial struggles



The recent departure of Kevin Fear from his role as headmaster of Nottingham High School has drawn attention due to both his remarks on the circumstances of his exit and the financial difficulties facing the institution. Having led the school for 17 years, Fear officially stepped down prior to his planned retirement, which was intended to take place later this year. The school has been reportedly grappling with increasing financial pressures, a situation exacerbated by changes in governmental policies related to funding and taxation for private education.

In the 2022/23 fiscal year, Fear's salary was reported to be between £350,000 and £400,000. Following his exit, he highlighted in an interview with Nottinghamshire Live that a range of issues contributed to the school’s financial challenges, including the government's removal of the VAT exemption for private schools, coupled with rises in employer National Insurance and pension contributions. These factors have led to significant belt-tightening measures, including a reduction in bursary funding for disadvantaged pupils for the upcoming academic year.

A particularly notable aspect of Fear's departure was his expressed disappointment regarding the scale and nature of his intended retirement celebration. In an email circulated to staff shortly before his exit, he indicated frustration with the governing body for what he perceived as a dilution of the planned retirement event, which he had expected to mirror the opulence of the school’s 500th anniversary ball. "As time went on, a number of suggestions were made but they all seemed to be watering down what was discussed at the time when I was promised a ball to mark my retirement," he stated.

Eventually, Fear opted to cancel the proposed celebration, feeling it had deviated too far from the original plans, stating, "I hope that on the final Friday of term we can at least put on a great event for staff to mark my 25 years of service to the school." He conveyed a sense of feeling "very disappointed" and "undervalued," reflecting on what he believed was a lack of recognition for his long tenure.

In light of his departure, the school appointed Paul Spedding as acting head to ensure continuity and stability until Andrew Holman officially assumes the headmaster position in September. A spokesperson for Nottingham High School expressed respect for Fear's decision, thanking him for his years of dedicated service. The ongoing financial considerations at the institution appear to have initiated a broader dialogue regarding the challenges faced by private schools in the current economic climate.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://nottinghamhigh.co.uk> - This URL supports the general information about Nottingham High School, its history, and its current state, but does not directly confirm specific financial or personnel-related details.
2. <https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/nottingham-news/nottingham-high-school-head-kevin-2453925> - This URL would likely provide more specific details about Kevin Fear's departure and the financial situation at Nottingham High School, though the exact link was not found in the search results.
3. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nottingham_High_School> - This Wikipedia page provides historical context about Nottingham High School and background information on its development and management.
4. <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source is mentioned as the original report of the article but does not directly provide confirmation or explanation of the specific claims without additional search results.
5. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/corporation-tax-private-schools> - This URL provides general information on taxation policies affecting private schools, which could relate to the financial challenges mentioned in the article.
6. <https://www.mumsnet.com/talk/private-school/5298280-whats-going-on-at-nottingham-high-school> - This Mumsnet page discusses Kevin Fear's departure and potential reasons, though it primarily reflects community speculation rather than confirmed facts.
7. <https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/nottingham-news/private-school-head-demanded-lavish-10101444> - Please view link - unable to able to access data