

Downs head retires at the end of term

THE Headmaster at The Downs School, Compton, Mr Philip Bowden, will retire on December 31, after 20 years at the school. He is 58.

Mr Bowden came to the school after spending four years as senior master at Icknield School, Wantage. Before then, he spent 10 years teaching in Leicester.

During the last war Mr Bowden served with the 1st Household Cavalry (the Life Guards) in the Middle East, Italy, Holland and Germany. He left the army in January 1946 and went straight into teaching.

"I have enjoyed the 20 years at Downs School and I have been lucky to have a dedicated and loyal staff. The school has certainly made its mark."

Mr Bowden and his wife Faith live at Compton. Three of his four children are married and he has five grandchildren. The couple are planning to move to Herefordshire after his retirement.

"I have mixed feelings about retiring. I have had a long and happy career with Berkshire, and especially with Downs School. But I expect I shall find plenty to keep me occupied."

After his retirement Mr Bowden is hoping to spend more time on his hobbies of



gardening, photography, walking and, especially, music.

The new headmaster at the school, who takes over on January 1, will be Mr W. D. Wills, at present deputy headmaster of Maiden Erlegh comprehensive school in Earley, Reading.

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