



■ French teacher Brian Redfern, who is retiring, and some of the students at Castle Community College, Deal

Picture: Paul Amos pd1455501

Teacher retiring on a high

REMEMBERING a fulfilling career and a great many past and present students at Castle Community College is Brian Redfern who retired this month after 32 years at the school.

Mr Redfern, a teacher of French, started his career in Hertfordshire and then moved to Peterborough, where he taught French and history.

He says it is the college's successes over the past year which mean he will be leaving on a high.

He moved to Deal in 1976 to take up the position of head of modern languages at what was then Deal Secondary School.

A year later, he became a head of year as well. His career has seen him undertake a number of other roles,

including head of the upper school, senior master, and then being promoted to deputy headmaster in 1987 to coincide with the renaming of Castle High.

Mr Redfern, who lives in Walmer, said his changing career reflected the many changes in teaching during his time at Deal.

"When I took over as head of year, the cane was still in use.

"One of the main things that has changed for the good is that we are all targeted and students have targets.

"You can now say that they are all treated as individuals, which was not the case before."

When remembering some of the best times at the school, Mr Redfern recalled the many

residential trips to France.

"It was extremely good for the students. For some, it was the first time they had travelled across the Channel. It also meant there was a lot of bonding which I feel I'm good at.

"I did think about retiring last year but I didn't, and this year has probably been the best time for our school in that we got our outstanding Ofsted and we got the top in Kent in the contextual value-added tables."

His retirement will give Mr Redfern the chance to do some much-needed work in the garden, and catch up with the many books he hasn't had chance to read.

He also plans to spend some time with his daughter and grandchildren in Cyprus.