

Dear Parents

I am delighted and honoured to be the new headteacher of St. Paul's Catholic School and I am very excited about serving the school community at the beginning of this new term.

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you my priorities for the future development of the school. I aim to ensure that examination outcomes are excellent, behaviour is impeccable, teaching is outstanding and pupils have access to the widest possible range of high quality extra-curricular experiences. All of this will be achieved in the context of a Catholic education that nurtures and develops each child's gifts and talents. I will also support our pupils in securing places at the top universities in the country or on high quality apprenticeships.

I am looking forward to building on the recent OFSTED success of the school where the inspection team determined that St. Paul's is a "Good" school with "Outstanding Features". I was particularly pleased that Ofsted found personal development, behaviour and welfare at St Paul's to be "Outstanding". The behaviour of pupils was judged to be outstanding and this is something that will continue under my leadership. Ofsted said: "Pupils are extremely supportive and caring of each other. They are fiercely proud of their school and live up to the school's inspiring values and ethos."

I am fully committed to the community of St. Paul's and to developing it into an outstanding school in the widest sense of the word. I have held a number of leadership positions in the school and have been Deputy Head for the last 10 years. This has enabled me to develop an excellent insight into what makes St. Paul's a special place. My husband and I have entrusted our own children's education to the talented and dedicated staff at St. Paul's. We have a son in Year 11 and his brother has just joined us in Year 7. I think that this dual role of headteacher and parent puts me in a unique position so that I can see the work of the school from a number of perspectives.

I hold a strong belief in the power of Catholic education to change children's lives and I believe in the right of every child to receive an excellent education. This is what I want for my own children and you have my commitment that I will work tirelessly to ensure that this is what your children experience at St. Paul's. I am dedicated to building opportunities for pupils to achieve the highest academic standards, ensuring that they are well known as individuals and that their unique personality, talents and gifts are nurtured and developed to the full. I believe in providing a holistic education where the whole child is developed and where we provide opportunities for them to flourish within and beyond the classroom.

One of my key objectives this year is to build upon and improve pupil progress and achievement. This will be set in the context of an educational experience that is founded on Gospel values. My priorities are excellent examination outcomes, impeccable behaviour and outstanding teaching. I will be visiting classrooms as often as possible in order to establish the extent to which all pupils are being stretched, challenged and supported to achieve their absolute potential. I will also be looking at the school as a worshipping community and how we work together to move forwards in the future.

Headteacher:
Jo-Anne Hoarty

Telephone
01908 669 735

St Paul's Catholic School
Phoenix Drive
Leadenhall
Milton Keynes
MK6 5EN

Email
enquiries@st-pauls.org.uk

Web
www.st-pauls.org.uk

This is all achievable if we work in partnership to further strengthen our community. Through working together we can deliver what I believe most parents want: happy children who leave school with a wide range of gifts and talents and who are well-equipped to cope with the world outside. My promise to you is that I will ensure that St. Paul's provides an outstanding education that is built on Gospel values; one in which every single child fulfils their potential in all areas and is able to do the best that is possible.

There are many challenges facing schools in the next few years. However, my firm belief is that if we stick to our core principles, focus on things that matter most and work in partnership then we can achieve great things at St. Paul's. I am fully aware that I will not be leading the school in the next phase of its development alone. I work in partnership with a supportive Governing Board, dedicated staff and talented pupils. Your support as parents and carers is also of the utmost importance. I hope our partnership will be productive. I hope that as many of you as possible will get involved in the life of our school. I know as a community you will have strong feelings about how you want the school to move forward and I welcome your suggestions, comments and offers of assistance. I urge you to contribute to our new parent survey that will take place later this term. It is important that you share your views on what we do well and what we need to do to improve. It is only through working in genuine partnership that we can provide the best education for your child. I am also aware that parents often need support and guidance on how to help their children succeed. We will be implementing a series of parent workshops later next term. Please email suggestions for topics to enquiries@st-pauls.org.uk.

There are many aspects that make St. Paul's an excellent school. These core aspects will remain but we will build on and develop new aspects so that St. Paul's develops into an outstanding Catholic school in which pupils achieve academic excellence and share a commitment to love, serve and do the best that is possible.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the weeks and months ahead. I will be attending all parents' information evenings this term but I can always be found outside the front of school each afternoon should you wish to meet me sooner!

Yours sincerely



Mrs Jo-Anne Hoarty
Headteacher

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