



St Martha's

From the Headmaster

7th March 2017

Dear parents,

I am writing to you regards staffing at St Martha's. As you know, a number of staff have been on maternity leave recently as well as others who have not been well.

First of all may I thank you for your support and understanding as we have worked through some of these. Concerning Art, I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Carpenter is expecting her second child and has informed me that she would like to begin her maternity leave early. Mrs Carpenter has been away from school since October and since then we have been fortunate to have secured the services of Ms Baird who will continue to teach Mrs Carpenters timetable until her return. This will, I hope, provide some continuity and stability for those girls studying Art and Photography. Ms Baird brings with her a wealth of experience and expertise which I know the pupils and students will take full advantage of.

If you have visited the school in the afternoon since half term you will have noticed a new face behind the reception desk. Mrs Lamsley who had previously been the school receptionist has returned to St Martha's and it has been wonderful to welcome her back to St Martha's.

Mr Whitmore, whom many of you know, has made the decision to explore pastures new in the next academic year. The end of this year will allow us to properly thank him for the many contributions he has made to life at St Martha's. Joining us in September will be Ms Jehan who was appointed recently. Some of the pupils were taught by her as part of the interview process and their feedback played a significant part in our decision making.

Ms Woollard has let me know that she would like to spend more time with her new family and so will not be returning to St Martha's. We are fortunate that Mrs Agyepong, who has been teaching Textiles has agreed to accept the position on a full time basis, again ensuring continuity for those pupils and students studying this subject. Having consulted with those students currently studying the subject I believe this will be a popular appointment as during her time with us she has already had a positive impact on their learning and it is my hope that this will continue.

Mr Matthew Burke, BA (Hons), PGCE, Ad Dip Ed, NPQH

Independent Catholic School for Girls

Camlet Way, Hadley Wood, Barnet, Herts, EN4 0NJ, UK

Tel: 020 8449 6889 Fax: 020 8441 5632 Email: office@saint-marthas.org.uk Website: www.st-marthas.co.uk

 @stmarthas_head

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From the Headmaster

We are also embarking on the hunt for two more positions before the end of this term. Ms Clancy has informed me that she will not be returning to St Martha's at the end of her maternity leave. She would like to have the opportunity to spend more time with her family and unfortunately the role here at St Martha's does not fit with her future plans. I was also informed this week that Ms Wilkins will be embarking upon a new challenge in her life from September as she returns to her studies enabling her to begin the path of training as a midwife. I know that there will be many opportunities for us to thank these staff for their contributions at the end of the academic year and they have certainly set the bar high with regards their successors. Details of these positions and all vacancies we have are available on our school website as well as other publications.

I suppose that there is an inevitability that staff will join and others will leave. Whilst it is disappointing when staff decide to leave it is important that I afford them the same opportunity we provide the pupils and students in helping them to realise their dreams and aspirations. I know that as a school we are stronger as a result of their contributions but I also know that they have strengthened the areas in which they work ensuring that whoever replaces them inherits a situation of strength and an opportunity to build on the successes already achieved.

I will of course ensure that you are kept informed of developments and thank you once again for your continued support and kind words – they are very much appreciated

Best wishes

Mr Matthew Burke, BA (Hons), PGCE, Ad Dip Ed, NPQH

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