



St Barnabas' CE Primary School

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Dear parents,

It is time for me to say goodbye to you all. It has been an honour to lead St Barnabas' and be part of this school community over the past five years. I will always cherish my time here. When I look back at what we have done over the past two years, I feel a great deal of pride and I thank all of you for helping in the many successes we have had. Results rose at Key Stage Two and our students left to go to high school with the knowledge and skills they needed to continue to succeed. Our links with the community strengthened, especially with Grosvenor Estates and Francis Holland School. The school building has seen many improvements and we all owe our parent governor, Jordan Lyon, a huge amount of gratitude for volunteering to do a lot of this. Nursery applications continue to rise and our conversion into Reception places has also risen. This is key to having a well-resourced school as the more students we have, the bigger our budget is. We introduced community events such as International Evening, Christmas Markets and our Easter Egg Hunt. These help to bond our community together and also give our students an opportunity to learn new things about each other in a safe welcoming environment.

The developments this year in the efficacy and look of the office and the school building has led to the school operating in a clearer way and put us in a great position to launch the new school vision.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the whole community working together towards the shared goals we have but I want to make special mention of the staff body we have here at St Barnabas'. We have gone through a lot of change in two years and every member of staff has risen to the new procedures, challenges and situations admirably. This has been apparent this year as the school had to change in many ways to meet the needs of the community as the virus hit. Every member of staff at the school this coming September will have worked at St Barnabas' before. This stable environment is perfect for the students to continue to flourish and I have no doubt that the school will go from strength to strength under the leadership of Rachel Jewitt, Lauren Castle and the Senior Leadership Team.

I have also been very lucky to have the governing body we have at St Barnabas' for my first headship. They are supportive, challenge in the right way and unequivocally put the needs of our students at the heart of every decision they make. I will miss Kate McCarthy and Fr John Pearson-Hicks; they played a huge part in every success this school has had in my time here and the feeling of pride I have when I think about St Barnabas' School.

Lastly, I would like to thank the students. It has been an absolute pleasure to be involved in the education of every single one of them. There is not a day in which I do not smile because of them and I will always remember the joy that they have brought into my life. I wish you all nothing but the best for the future and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Yours faithfully,

Thomas Brendan Shanahan