



**The Bishops' C of E
Learning Academy**

Faith to Belong, Believe, Aspire, Achieve

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Executive Head teacher: Mrs K Pitcher

Thursday 18th July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to have been appointed as the Headteacher of The Bishops' Church of England Academy from this September.

I'd like to start by thanking Mrs Pitcher for all her hard work and enthusiasm in leading the school forward and Mrs Hatch for her continuing work as Assistant Headteacher. Every time I've visited the school I'm met with smiling faces and a very welcoming atmosphere; I've been lucky to receive a very detailed handover.

I grew up in Redruth and after graduating from Leeds University joined the Royal Navy as a Navigating Officer. I spent a lot of time at sea and travelled extensively, visiting countries in the Persian Gulf, the Baltic and the Caribbean. I met my wife whilst serving and when our children appeared I decided that it was time for a change and retrained as a primary school teacher. I taught at Trewirgie Junior, Portreath and Troon school before 3 brilliant years as the Headteacher of Penponds School near Camborne. I still manage to get in the sea regularly – I'm a keen surfer and help run Porthtowan Surf Life Saving Club in my spare time.

I do not have a very complicated philosophy in terms of what I believe makes the best school. My approach is generally to keep things as straightforward as possible. My priorities are these: brilliant teaching and learning that makes the children want to learn, children being a boss of their own learning and loving a challenge, and finally providing rich, vibrant experiences that form the foundation of children's self-esteem and confidence. With hard work, determination and Christian values these are all achievable and will deliver what I think most parents want – happy children with high aspirations who leave our school more than ready for whatever the future holds.

From what I have seen already, this is a good school with many strengths and I have no intention of changing things that are working well. Indeed, as parents and carers, you are unlikely to see major changes immediately. However, I have no doubt that standards can be higher and I bring with me a good deal of experience when it comes to raising achievement and improving the quality of teaching. During my first term I shall be visiting the classrooms and talking to the children to order to establish what the next steps are to move the school forwards.

There are many challenges facing schools in the next few years. However, my firm belief is that, if we stick to our core values, focus on the things that matter most and work together then we can build on the previous successes and achieve great things here. I hope that as many of you as possible will get involved in the life of the school and I will be on the school gate most mornings and afternoons to start meeting as many of you as I can.

Yours sincerely



Adam Richards

***If you have faith.....nothing will be impossible. Matthew 17:20
Sowing the Seeds of Life-Long Learning***