



Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College

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Dear Parents and Carers

On behalf of the Governors and staff I wish you a very happy new year. I am very pleased to report that all the building works to repair the classrooms affected by last summer's flood damage have now been completed and that our English, Maths and Science departments have moved back into their newly refurbished classrooms and laboratories in Our Lady's Wing. I must congratulate and commend the students for the tremendous way in which they conducted themselves last term coping with all the disruption without complaint.

I take this opportunity at the start of term to update you on some staffing changes and some exciting developments at the Convent.

Staffing

Mrs Peppiatt, Deputy Headteacher, will be starting her maternity leave shortly. Ms Paisley will move from her current post as Head of 6th Form to Acting Deputy Headteacher looking after Pastoral Care for Year 7 to 13 as well as Behaviour, Attendance and Inclusion.

Ms Pearce will move to the post of Acting Head of 6th Form. Ms Goodwin will become Acting Head of Year 9. The above arrangements will be in place for the duration of Mrs Peppiatt's maternity leave.

The 6th Form will also be supported by Ms Parrott who is an Assistant Headteacher from St. Michael's school in Watford, one of our Trust partner schools. She will work as an Assistant Headteacher at the Convent for one day a week for the remainder of this year.

Mrs Burnaby has taken up a post leading and managing our work with primary schools and the transition process from Year 6 to 7. She will remain as Head of Year 7 but will no longer be Head of Year 8.

Our new Head of Year 8 will be Mrs Eze and Mr Adjalo remains as Pastoral Support Manager for Year 8.

Student Parliament

After fierce and enthusiastic campaigning, we now have 72 elected student MPs across Year 7 to 13 and our first Convent Student Government. The House of St. Katherine was voted in and their party leader, Joanna Reis in Year 10, has taken up her post as the very first Convent Student Prime Minister. The first student parliamentary debate involving all the House MPs will take place on Friday 18 January. Our local MP Dawn Butler has been very supportive of our Student Parliament and will be visiting the school on 18 January to work with the students advising them on parliamentary debates and how to run Prime Minister's Question Time.



The MPs have already been working to bring about positive changes to the school and the mechanism of the new Parliament has not only given our students a much stronger voice in how they want their school to develop and improve but is also engaging them in being knowledgeable about politics and how to become active citizens.

Research School

In partnership with St Mary's University in Twickenham, our Convent has now become the very first Centre for Research in Catholic Education in London and the south of England. This will provide a fantastic opportunity for our students and staff to engage in meaningful research projects across a wide range of topics and subject areas and will enable our students to experience real academic challenge. There are now growing teams of student researchers from Year 8 to 12 actively working on research projects. We hope to publish their studies later this year and to plan our first Research Conference. Information about the Research School is on our school website.

Our students are benefitting from the experience of designing and carrying out research which will give them a thorough preparation for university life.

Performing Arts

We were very proud to welcome Josefina Gabrielle, currently starring in the West End musical Chicago, to officially open our new Dance Studio in November. We now have Dance on our school curriculum for Year 7 and 8 and students from Year 9 and 6th Form are able to choose this as an option to study. Various dance clubs are now offered to all our students from Ballet to Hip Hop.

We now have our own Convent Gospel Choir conducted by the well-known choir leader of the London International Gospel Singers. The Gospel Choir involves students and staff and rehearses for an hour after school every Friday. We hope that more of our girls will want to get involved in this exciting new venture.

Finally, we have just taken delivery of a set of new Steel Pans and with a visiting specialist teacher every week we should soon have our very own Steel Band.

It is certainly an exciting time for the Convent and its students as we are moving into a new year as well as a new chapter.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L McGowan
Headmistress