



13 June 2019

Dear parents and carers,

May I firstly take this opportunity to express my delight at gaining the opportunity to lead St Gabriel's. I have heard from the Governors, staff and students how much pride there is in school and this is clear to me already on my now bi-weekly visits to school.

St Gabriel's will be my third Headship, having spent almost 25 years in education across 8 different local authorities. The first half of my career was spent in good and outstanding schools, including those which transformed from lower Ofsted categories and more recently, I have worked in 3 failing schools to move them out of special measures, one of which became the highest achieving school in its local authority within 2 years. I have also held posts as a Director of Academy Improvement and a Senior Lecturer in Education, so school is in safe hands.

I have every confidence that together, we can transform St Gabriel's back to its outstanding status and build upon the many strengths we have, including fantastic pastoral support and an inclusive approach where every child is valued. 'Together' is the most important factor in our journey and parental support is crucial if we are to be successful in a rapid transformation.

As part of my bi-weekly visits and learning walks of school, it has already become apparent to me that we need urgent professional development for staff, to focus upon rapidly improving standards of teaching and learning and in order to talk staff through a new behaviour policy we will be implementing in September. You will receive correspondence regarding the behaviour policy before the end of term and all students will have assemblies to explain our expectations both for rewards and consequences.

Speed is of the essence regarding this training and therefore, we have applied to the local authority for an additional INSET day, which will take place on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July. We are informing you of this now in order that you can make alternate child care arrangements if required and apologise for any inconvenience. However, I am certain that you will support us in our strategies to ensure rapid progress is made and an INSET before the summer break will enable all staff to re-address their lesson plans over summer, thus ensuring consistency with our new higher expectations from the very start of term.

Next year's INSET days (September 2019) will also be changing to fall in line with the availability of training providers and to ensure that there are staggered, systematic reviews of the impact of training. The INSET days will now be Monday and Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of September, Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January and Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July.

Additionally, further to Mr McGhee's recent letter regarding the proposed changes to the school day, I thank all parents who took the opportunity to share their views. I can now confirm that, having given due consideration to the views of all stakeholders, the Governors have made the decision to support the proposed changes. Consequently, the school day will start at 8.45 am and finish at 3.05 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and finish at 2.05 pm on a Wednesday.

The offer of extra-curricular opportunities for Wednesday afternoon will be developed and shared at a later date.

Thank you for your anticipated support regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

Miss L Corrigan  
Headteacher Designate

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