



OUR LADY & ST JOHN

CATHOLIC COLLEGE

14th June 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that I have accepted the substantive post as Headteacher of Our Lady and St John Catholic College. It is a privilege and an honour to take on the stewardship of the school on a permanent basis and I look forward to working with you to create the best school in Blackburn, and one of which we can all be proud.

In my presentation to governors, I spoke of my desire to uphold our mission as a Catholic school. A school that is Christ-centred – a true Catholic community. I will ensure that we put the interests of each child at the heart of all we do. OLSJ will be a school that serves the community with love and service at its core. I am proud of my talented staff who combine a wealth of experience with the very best teaching practice, energy and enthusiasm for change. Working with you, we can create a truly outstanding Catholic school.

I am excited about the next stage of our school improvement journey. Our current Year 11s are set for record results. You can be proud of their hard work, commitment and dedication. Please remember them in your prayers over the next few weeks as they sit important examinations. Last year we were in the top 15% of schools in the Diocese for the progress our children made. This year I expect us to break into the top three schools as we continue to improve in all aspects of our work. As a Headteacher I know the importance of talent so that children have teachers who are constantly focused on improvement. We work hard to recruit and retain outstanding teachers and I am pleased to tell you that we have more excellent teachers joining us from across the Diocese in September. We are now fully staffed with excellent teachers in every department across the school.

Working together, we can ensure success for your child. I would ask that in order to support your child's education you ensure that they attend school regularly and avoid term time absences. Research shows that absence from school harms learning and progress. The government classes "good" attendance at 95%. This would mean that a child averaged one day off every 4 weeks. To me that is still too much time off for most children. I thank you in advance for your support.

All children know that above all else I expect them to show respect, a value which is at the heart of a strong, Catholic school. We ask our children to respect their learning, respect the learning of others and respect anything an adult reasonably asks them to do in school. Can I thank you for your support in upholding this message. On the rare occasions we need to sanction a child, we remind them that we have a legal right to issue detentions and other sanctions.

"TRADITIONAL VALUES, 21ST CENTURY LEARNING."

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May I thank you for your support since I began our journey of school improvement nearly two years ago. Our next step is to convene a normal governing body to replace the Interim Executive Board. I thank them on your behalf for their leadership. I invite would be parent governors to contact Mrs Kelly at school to express an interest in serving before the 21st June. We will organise elections then as necessary. Finally, as we continue to work together to ensure an outstanding education for your children, can I ask you to keep in mind our Bishop's prayer - "Stay with us Lord, on our journey."

Yours faithfully,

Mr P Murden

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Murden', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Headteacher