



Executive Principal: Mrs B Rogers CBE

March 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Changes at the top mean that exciting times are ahead for St Patrick's next year. John Henry Newman said, "to live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often". We have an outstanding school, so it is reasonable to be somewhat anxious about significant changes, but I think if we get things right this is a perfect time to bring in new leaders with fresh ideas and lots of enthusiasm. Embracing change has served us well and it is because we have not stood still that we have continued to go from strength to strength. Succession planning is really important and getting the right headteacher has been critical.

I am delighted to tell you that governors have successfully recruited Mrs Alison Byrne to lead St Patrick's from September 2017. Mrs Byrne is an experienced and talented school leader with a proven track record in raising standards. She will work closely with Mr Patrick Murden, who replaces me as Executive Principal, from September 2017. Mr Murden was the deputy headteacher at St Patrick's before becoming a headteacher three years ago. In those three years he has taken a school on a rapid journey of improvement by focusing on standards in the classroom and employing a number of Specialist Leaders of Education to provide expertise. He will divide his time between St Patrick's and his current school and will be sharing his knowledge and expertise with Mrs Byrne. I am taking up a new post, developing the Teaching School at St Patrick's, which includes training new teachers and school leaders.

It has been a joy and a privilege to serve our school community since my arrival in 2003. I have watched with pride as our children have thrived under the care and guidance of inspirational teachers, supportive parents and hard working governors. From September, I will no longer be in charge of the day-to-day running of the school, but I am delighted to still be involved albeit in a different role. I have one term left in charge and, working alongside Mr Wall, I intend to make every second count.

In other news, pupils in Year 11 have started final GCSE examinations and our very best wishes and prayers are with them at this important time. Hard work needs to be sustained and will bring rewards. You may have seen in the press that the school has been identified as one of the top state schools in the country for achievement across academic subjects. I received a letter from The Right Honorable Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for School Standards, thanking our staff. I would add my thanks to staff and include praise to pupils and parents for their hard work.

This is a busy time in school; our Lenten charity fundraising has as always been a key feature of school life at this time of year. Without doubt a highlight has been red nose activities to raise money for charities, which are sensitive to our ethos. The red walks give our young people the chance to experience the joy of belonging to a caring community and the privilege of helping others. Thank you to all those staff, pupils and parents who have supported these efforts.

Congratulations to our sports stars and teams on a busy and successful term and as always our music and drama departments for continued excellence and talent growing.

The excellent behaviour of the pupils who went on the ski trip to Canada at half term helped to ensure a very successful and enjoyable trip. A different group had a great time in New York and two separate groups have recently been on History and Geography GCSE residential weekends. My thanks to those teachers who give their time so generously to take extra lessons, arrange events, organize trips, and provide support for sporting or musical activities.

Thank you for your continued support. May God Bless you, and your families, this Easter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "B Rogers". The letters are connected and fluid, with a prominent loop under the 'g'.

Mrs Barbara Rogers CBE  
Executive Principal