

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

A VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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Jesus said, "I chose you, and appointed you to go and bear much fruit." (John 15:16)

16th July 2019

Academy Council: End of year letter.

As we come to the end of another busy and successful year for Sacred Heart school, I want to begin by thanking Mrs Lubomski for everything she has done for the school and for all the children under her charge, both past and present. Mrs Lubomski has successfully guided the school through the transition into the Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust whilst seeking to improve academic standards by embedding support, development and monitoring processes for both staff and children. Much of her work and emotional investment in the school is known only to a few, certainly within the Catholic tradition, leadership is synonymous with service and I know that Mrs Lubomski has served with great personal commitment during her time at Sacred Heart.

As you will be aware, Sacred Heart is a member of the Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust. Being part of this gives us a strongly held common identity and purpose as a Catholic family of schools that collaborate closely and support each other. Part of our Trust mission is to sustain high quality Catholic education for families in our area. Therefore, as a successful and happy school, Sacred Heart has been able to offer help and experience to other schools in the Trust. It is not alone in doing so, and other schools within the Trust have also played a key part in this area of supporting each other. This is only right, and it is a tangible demonstration of our values and beliefs in action and consistent with Catholic Social Teaching, as well as the moral code we encourage our children to adopt. It is correct to be cautious about the delivery of external assistance and it is the job of the Academy Council to ensure that when this happens our school remains strong and standards are not compromised. Independent external assessment, and a further rigorous review process in June, tells us that the right policies and processes are in place to sustain educational standards for our children over the coming year.

The end of this year has seen the announcement of several staff changes that will come into effect in September and our school will begin the year fully staffed with professionals under the leadership of Mrs Hogan and Mrs Gilhooly. During this time of change, the Academy Council has maintained close dialogue with the Executive Team of the Trust to ensure that Sacred Heart is fully supported. The Executive Team recognise how much Sacred Heart has done to support the strategic objectives of the Trust and the Diocese of Leeds. I would ask you to trust in their judgement and that of the Executive team in the Trust.

Whilst several changes have been confirmed in quick succession, please be assured that over the last few weeks the communications have been circulated at the earliest possible time on each occasion. Parental engagement is a key focus area and feedback on this is always welcome.

Thanks

We are always searching for new funding sources and I want to say a special thanks to the **SHSA** who are continuing a long tradition of fundraising, just as importantly, their events provide a cohesive dimension for the school community. When there are events, I would urge as many of you as possible to support them, and if you can't attend, buy some tickets anyway!

Special thanks also to our excellent Ilkley Carnival Committee and their achievement for the school this year.

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In addition, thank you to all those parents who have contributed to the **Voluntary Contribution Scheme** over the last year. Donations to the school via this scheme are really appreciated and we will be sharing more detail on the money that has been raised in September.

I would like to thank all the teaching staff for their efforts and patience during the year as well as our administration team, Heather Cheetham and Helen Robinson who set the happy tone of the school for all who travel past the Reception office. Many thanks also to Mr Younger, who despite being a long-suffering Newcastle supporter, manages to maintain a sense of humour.

Finally, thank you also to governors Mrs Mary Curran and Mr Alan Blighe who are both finishing their time on the Academy Council. We hope to be able to welcome a new Foundation governor to the Academy Council soon and elections for a new Parent governor will be held in the Autumn term

Congratulations

Well done to all the **Y6 and Y2 children** for the SATs results that they have each achieved. These reflect the children's hard work, the high standards of teaching that they have received throughout their Key Stage 1 and 2 curriculum years and the support from yourselves as parents. More details will be available on the school's last newsletter of the school year.

Final Word...

Mrs Hogan encourages you to ask questions and seek meetings with staff when you have concerns and queries, please take advantage of the open-door opportunities and use the school website which is full of detailed information about how the school teaches and cares for your children.

This year has seen the start of the Little Hearts pre-school events which without doubt have introduced new families to the school and increased our Reception intake for the coming year. It is our intention to build on these events to welcome both Catholic and non-Catholic families into our school and, when funding allows, to establish a nursery to complement our excellent and oversubscribed Larks and Nightingales wrap-around care provision.

We send our best very wishes, both to all those children in Y6 now moving on to new schools and those children and their families from other year groups who are leaving the school for pastures new.

The school is seen at its best when the children sing and cheer together at assemblies, collective worships and events such as the lovely sports day we have just had. It would be great to see as many of you as possible on Friday to end the school year together too.

Wishing you all a lovely Summer break,

Eddie Jones

Chair of Sacred Heart Academy Council

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