



From the Chair – Peter Griffin



Dear Parents

It is with great pleasure that I can inform you that this week the Governors have interviewed and confirmed the appointment of a new Headteacher for Our Lady's. She is Mrs Catherine Burch and we're delighted that she will be able to commence her new role from the start of the summer term. She joins us with a wealth of experience and I know she will very much be looking forward to meeting you all from April onwards.

Governors, staff, parents and children will be sorry to see Mrs Batson leave Our Lady's after four years in post but we know how talented and capable she has been and she was ready to make that step in her career where she could take on the responsibility of leading a larger school closer to home. We are fortunate that her new school, St Anne's, is located in south-east Coventry and she has assured us that she will be on hand to advise and support Mrs Burch as she settles into her new role.

Our recruitment panel of five governors, supported by Fr Teddy and a representative from the diocese were unanimous in our decision to offer Mrs Burch the position as Headteacher; she went through a rigorous series of procedures on Wednesday including leading an act of collective worship, teaching English/poetry to a year 4 class and surviving a grilling 'interview' by a panel of pupils with questions such as *'if you were an animal what would you choose to be?'* Throughout all the many tasks what impressed us most was her warmth, her natural ability to put children at ease and her love of teaching. Mrs Batson was not part of the recruitment panel but she met Mrs Burch when she visited in advance of her application and was instrumental in influencing her decision to apply for the post so we are very grateful to her. I know she is relieved and delighted that we have secured Mrs Burch's services and that Our Lady's will be in a 'safe pair of hands'.

Spring seems very much in the air and it is lovely to see signs of the daffodils that we planted last November peeping through next to the fence; next half-term is only 5 weeks long and will fly by. Plans are being prepared to give a proper 'send-off' to Mrs Batson, one of which will be the celebration of Mass in the College chapel at 6pm on Thursday March 30th for parents, children, staff and governors. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Best wishes for a lovely half-term

Peter Griffin

Chair on behalf of Our Lady's Governing Body