



From the Chair – Peter Griffin



Dear Parents

It is hard to believe that we are at the half-way point in this academic year and that we are approaching the first anniversary of the appointment of Mrs Catherine Burch as Headteacher of our lovely primary school.

I'm sure many of you will have seen me around – I seem to have been visiting Our Lady's on a daily basis for much of the year. I said a few words at the end of the beautiful carol service held in the College chapel in December and I have had the good fortune of attending nativities and assemblies regularly. Friday afternoon Celebration Assemblies are one of the highlights of my week and I attend as often as I can – it is so special to see the children receiving recognition for their achievements and progress and the genuine warmth and affection that all the staff have for the children and the pride of parents invited to attend.

Attached to this newsletter is a flyer written by our parent governor, Jessica Delaney encouraging at least one parent to apply for a vacancy on the governing body. I do hope that this encourages some of you to consider taking on this vital role – application forms are available from the school office; if you want further information and insights into the role please contact Jessica or myself.

Some of you may recall that we wrote to all parents back in 2022 about an important decision the governors had taken to formally apply for Our Lady's to become an 'academy' and to join the Multi-Academy Company (MAC) of ***Our Lady of the Magnificat*** which will eventually be a family of about 24 Catholic schools. We are now on schedule to join the MAC in September 2024. More information about the MAC can be found on their website [www.magnificat.org.uk](http://www.magnificat.org.uk)

All staff and governors are acutely aware of the inevitable disruption caused by any last minute decision to close the school, usually due to flooding. We are developing plans to keep the school open even if flood water prevents parents dropping off children outside the gate as was the case in December; our policy is to open provided staff can safely drive and leave their cars at school, not elsewhere. Unfortunately this was not the case at 7.30 today so we took the very reluctant decision to close. As waters receded this looked premature but once taken we had to stick to our decision.

Finally I want to pay tribute to the professionalism, dedication and commitment of all the staff who work tirelessly in the interests of your children. Under the inspired leadership of Mrs Burch the school goes from strength to strength; it is so reassuring for governors to hear how much parents appreciate all that the staff do for your children.

Best wishes for a lovely half-term.

Peter Griffin Chair on behalf of Our Lady's Governing Body