



13 June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Headteacher of St Dunstan's School commencing in September 2024.

I am incredibly proud to have been offered the opportunity to lead this community. Having worked within the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership (MNSP) for several years, I have built strong working partnerships with its schools and key post holders. I also bring to this role a wealth of experience covering curriculum, quality of education and pastoral care. Most notably, I have played an integral role in taking my current school to being one of the highest performing schools in the county, and in the top 10% of schools nationally for improved outcomes.

Children only have one chance at an education and it is my firm belief that every child deserves an inspiring education which prepares them to become the very best version of themselves and successful young individuals. High expectations alongside a genuine care and regard for every individual sits at the heart of this. This is strongly aligned with MNSP and St Dunstan's School and I am keen to continue to promote this ethos in my role.

St Dunstan's School is in a strong position. It remains one of the highest performing schools in Somerset and is well-regarded by parents and the community. It has also grown significantly in numbers, with its largest intake of pupils for over 25 years this September. The school's strengths were recognised and rightfully celebrated in the recent Ofsted report, where it was graded as 'Good' in all categories. I look forward to continuing to build upon the community's hard work and achievements to date, so that the school continues to improve further.

During the past few weeks I have begun to spend some time in the school, meeting key members of staff and the students. I would like to thank everyone who has made my first few visits to the school so welcoming. The school's strong community ethos along with the warm, friendly and welcoming culture is something that stands out about St Dunstan's School.

As we move into the final part of the academic year, I will be working in the school on a regular basis to begin preparations for the new academic year and to ensure a smooth transition. I also intend to find some time to meet with parents and guardians too.

I look forward to working with you all over the coming weeks, months and years to ensure that St Dunstan's School provides the very best opportunities and education for children to flourish and achieve their full potential.

Yours faithfully

Paul Balkwill