

8 July 2013

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Retirement Letter

After a long and happy career in teaching it is now time for me to spend more time with family and to pursue my many interests. I will be leaving my post as Headmaster at St Margaret's at the end of this term but I will remain in touch with education through my link with Liverpool Hope University, and will follow the progress of St.Margaret's with interest.

I declared my intention to retire to the Governing Body over a year ago. Following a national advertisement and an intensive interview process, they have been able to appointment Mr Stephen Brierley, who I am sure will prove to be an outstanding successor. Since his appointment, Mr Brierley has worked very closely with me, particularly in making a number of staff appointments for September.

Over the years we have been blessed with many talented teachers at St Margaret's. Following the recent flurry of retirements there has been the opportunity to appoint a number of new support and teaching staff. All of the new teachers underwent a rigorous interview procedure which included an observed classroom teaching exercise. I am confident that, in September, there will be an appropriate blend of new and experienced staff that will prove to be dynamic and committed to St Margaret's. It should be remembered that in the last Ofsted inspection the vast majority of the lessons observed were considered to be good or outstanding. The support staff are also of a high calibre and they too have been a key factor in creating St Margaret's successful reputation and ethos. The Senior Leadership Team, through their exceptional ability and drive, have maintained outstanding levels of achievement in many areas of school life, and rest assured this will continue.

Governors are, of course, a group of people who work extremely hard to keep the school true to its mission. This year, with Inspections and our move to academy status, there has been a hectic schedule of additional meetings. Our governors have been extremely generous with their time. Particular thanks are due to our Chairman, Mr Ricketts and Vice Chairman Dr Gavin, for their tremendous support and encouragement. I do feel that, at St Margaret's, we are particularly well blessed with a highly astute, professional and dedicated team of Governors.

I would also like to pay my personal thanks to all the PA members, past and present, for their hard work and friendship. May they go from strength to strength.

Over the years we seem to have experienced constant change. Fortunately, the school has been well supported by the staff in the Diocesan office who have done so much to help schools maintain high standards. Our Local Authority has also been a massive support and I consider myself very fortunate to have had access to this highly skilled and experienced team of educationalists.

Each year, when I address the new intake and their parents, I make mention of the distinctiveness of Church schools and I elaborate on the characteristics which define a Church school. Outstanding Church schools, like St Margaret's, are proud to be *A House of the Gospel* in which, starting at governor and staff level, there is a deliberate attempt to link the concerns of Christ's gospel with the life of the school, and to do this in educational terms. I certainly hope that together we have achieved this and pray that this will continue to be the hallmark of St Margaret's.

Looking back over the last eighteen years I can see many exciting and successful times. I have had the privilege to work alongside talented staff, committed governors, extremely supportive parents and carers and wonderful, happy students who are magnificent young adults in the making and I shall miss them. I have also been deeply touched by the support so many of you have offered to me during my headship. The role is very demanding, on all levels, and the support of the parents and carers has enabled me to set and maintain high standards. So thank you.

May God continue to bless you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David F. Dennison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr David F Dennison
Headmaster