



St Mary's Catholic School

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where everyone can succeed



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Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year from everyone at St Mary's. It was lovely to welcome the students back to school yesterday, after the Christmas break. You will have received the students' Achievement 1 data during the holidays and I am sure that the overwhelming majority of you will be very pleased with the progress that your child is making. There was so much to celebrate with the students' progress over the course of last term and we look forward to more of the same this term. I am sure that if there are any areas of improvement on which to focus, arising out of the Achievement 1 data, you will be encouraging your child. Do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year for any further support.

I also wanted to let you know that, as part of our work as a National Support School, we have been asked to provide leadership support to a neighbouring school, Heaton Manor, following their Ofsted inspection in December and the very recent retirement of their Headteacher. Our Governors have agreed to provide the equivalent of 5 days' per week of leadership support to Heaton Manor, for the next two terms, until August 2017. Miss Patterson will provide the equivalent of 3 days per week as Head of School at Heaton Manor but she will continue in her permanent role as Deputy Headteacher here for the rest of the week. I will provide the equivalent of two days' per week to Heaton Manor and continue in my permanent role as Headteacher here at St Mary's for the rest of the week. In reality, we will spread our time across the week between both schools to ensure that we continue to have a strong, daily presence in St Mary's and ensure no detriment to our students from this arrangement which is not dissimilar to the leadership support that we provided to a Diocesan secondary school a couple of years ago.

As a National Support School, we have been building our internal leadership capacity to ensure that when called upon to support a neighbouring school in this way, we have the capacity to do so. Nonetheless, we will monitor this temporary arrangement closely and ensure that there is no detriment to our students.

I wish you all the best for a happy and prosperous 2017.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

J Foster
Headteacher