

Our ref: 0609TCV

6th September 2017



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Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I would like to welcome you back to a new school year and to introduce myself to you as the new Headteacher. For the last twenty-eight years I have worked in senior positions in several schools across the city and have been a Deputy Headteacher for the last fifteen years.

After my appointment I made a number of visits to the school and met with a considerable number of our young people and staff and was extremely impressed by their enthusiasm and respect for the school and each other. As parents and carers I also want to thank you for entrusting the school with the education of your daughters and sons and want to assure you of my commitment to continuing to raise standards and to work in close partnership with you. Our students have one opportunity in life to achieve at school and it is important that we work together to secure the best possible outcomes for all of them.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the 'Class of 2017', those Year 11 students who took their public exams this summer. Despite the introduction of new courses and assessment criteria a vast majority of our students were extremely successful with several of them achieving outstanding sets of results that included a number of Grade 9's in English and maths (the new version of A*) and A* and A grades in other subject areas. We wish them well as they embark upon the next stage of their careers.

I feel especially privileged to be joining the worldwide community of Salesian Schools with their distinguished history of serving the local community for over fifty years. I want to ensure that every young person in the school has a positive, rewarding experience all day and every day and most importantly that we live out our daily lives in school by following the Salesian way of living a life of fulfilment and service to each other. Loving kindness, opening hearts and minds and building confidence are the rules that underpin our school community and I will continue to grow and nurture these values in our school.

As parents and carers you are also part of our family/community and I would welcome an opportunity to meet with you. It is important for me to ensure that you feel confident that when contacting us your concerns will be quickly addressed and that our communication with you is clear and immediate. Being newly appointed to the school I want to know your thoughts about school life and how we can improve. To this end I have set aside Friday afternoons from 2.00-4.00 pm to have a "surgery" where parents/carers can drop in and I will be available to meet with you. However please do not hesitate to contact me at any other time should you feel the need to do so.

As with all schools, there has been a change in personnel and this reflects the evolving nature of school life. Since last term some members of staff have moved on and some roles will evolve as the year progresses. However, what matters is that the students of the school receive an education that is of the highest standard in an environment where they are challenged and where they feel safe and secure. These are my priorities in the coming year.

To this end I also want you to know that in the build up to my being appointed I have met with a range of people including the Local Authority/Director of Children's Services, the Salesian Trustees and representatives from the Archdiocese and want to reassure you of their commitment to the school and its future. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Harrison for all her hard work and commitment to the school during the last two years.

The start of the new school year is always an exciting time and as with all schools, there are challenges ahead. We are expecting a return visit from Ofsted and the school will have a robust plan in place to address previous concerns. In my new role I will be reviewing the learning and teaching across the whole school and working with our new School Improvement Partner (Mrs Sally Kenyon) to make our school stronger and even more supportive of our young people. Mrs Kenyon is a very experienced, highly regarded Ofsted Inspector. Most importantly of all, I will be listening to our students and ensuring all staff follow the Salesian way so that every lesson, conversation and experience in school opens up the potential for our children to excel in all that they do.

In the coming weeks the school will be working to welcome the current Year 6 joining us in September 2018 and to this end, **Friday 15th September 2017** will be a day in which all Year 6 students from our current feeder schools will be joining us. To facilitate this, Year 7-11 will not be in school on this day. Furthermore on **Thursday 21st September** from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm is our Open Evening for prospective students in Years 5 and 6 but I would also like to extend a warm welcome to all our current parents and carers to visit the school so that I can personally introduce myself to you.

Finally, I would like to conclude by thanking you on behalf of the Governing Body and staff for the continued support you give to your children and Savio Salesian College and I look forward to working with you to secure the best possible outcomes for all our young people.

Yours faithfully



Mr T Costello
Headteacher

Some key dates for this half term:

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| Tuesday - Thursday | 12 th – 14 th September | Year 7 retreats |
| Friday | 15 th September | INSET day |
| Thursday | 21 st September | Open Evening |
| Monday | 25 th September | Year 7 and Year 11 photographs |
| Tuesday | 26 th September | Year 7 and year 11 photographs |
| Wednesday | 27 th September | Year 11 'Next Steps' day |
| Monday | 9 th October | Year 7 Mass of Welcome and meet the form tutors |
| Thursday | 12 th October | Year 11 Parents' Evening |
| Monday – Thursday | 16 th – 19 th October | Year 10 retreats |
| Monday | 23 rd October | Half term holiday begins |