



Monday 18th December

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to let you know that after just over 10 years in post, I will be leaving my position as Principal at St Margaret's at the end of this term.

It has been a deep privilege to have been able to serve this wonderful school as Principal for so long. During the course of that time, I've had the honour of working with some highly gifted teachers and leaders; and I've also had the deep honour of working with many, many amazing students. Those students have sustained me through the highs and lows of the last 10 years, with their chirpy "*Good morning*" greetings, their industry and their achievements. And I've been sustained too by the fact that every year, so many students complete their seven years here having grown up to become the sort of young people I would be proud to call my own children.

Together, they and I can look back at what we have all achieved over the last decade with huge pride. I'm particularly proud to have been able to lead our school into membership of an outstanding Multi-Academy Trust – the only joint-denominational Multi-Academy Trust in the country. Leaders in the Trust often echo Bishop David Sheppard and Archbishop Derek Worlock's line that we are "*better together*", and looking at the improvements that working with All Saints has already brought about, I can testify to the truth of what they said.

I am leaving St Margaret's to take up a position on the senior leadership team of All Saints Multi-Academy Trust. Having known some of the leaders in the Trust for many years – and therefore being in a unique position to confirm that the leadership they bring to the Trust is truly of the highest quality – I am genuinely humbled to have been given the opportunity to serve alongside them in the next phase of their expansion (a number of primary schools are due to join All Saints next term, for example). I'm also very excited by the possibilities the new post may provide for my own professional development.

The process of appointing a new Headteacher for our school will begin in the new year. I am delighted to be able to advise you that in the interim, **Mrs Jeniffer Sing** will act as St Margaret's Headteacher. Mrs Sing is one of the outstanding Trust leaders I referred to above: she is an experienced school leader and Headteacher, and is currently employed by All Saints as its Executive Headteacher. In that capacity, Mrs Sing has been working with St Margaret's for a day a week for the last six months – so she already knows us well. Miss Heather Duggan, Chief Executive Officer of All Saints (formerly Chief Education Officer for the whole city, and before that Headteacher of our sister school, Archbishop Blanch) will also be supporting St Margaret's during this period of transition. I am sure they will write to introduce themselves to you early next term.

Mrs Sing is introducing herself to the students in special Assemblies this morning. Please do talk about this transition with your son or daughter; for some, it may be unsettling, and a word or two in season will help reassure them.

In the meantime, thank you for the support and kindness you have shown me over the last decade. I'm particularly grateful to those who have prayed for me, and for all of us St Margaret's, during that time: I could not have done this job for a day without God's constant grace surrounding me. I won't be able to do my new job – and nor will Mrs Sing be able to do *her* new job – without that grace either, so please do hold all of us in your thoughts and prayers at this time.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Brierley', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Stephen Brierley
Principal.