



St Francis Catholic Primary School

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Maidstone
Kent ME16 0LB
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25 September 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to inform you that Elisabeth Blanden has been appointed as substantive Headteacher of St. Francis Catholic Primary School.

This appointment follows comprehensive rounds of advertising for the position and an extremely rigorous interview process. Mrs Blanden completed a variety of tasks to an appointment panel consisting of five Governors, the Education Commission's Deputy Director of Leadership and Governance Stephen Bryan; and Local Authority Improvement Adviser Rosemary Ferguson. The panel observed Mrs Blanden complete a diverse range of school based exercises and presentations including an Act of Collective Worship, together with a round of stringent interviews, scrutinising performance, school improvement, achievements and vision for the future.

Under Mrs Blanden's leadership, for the best part of two and a half years, the school has been transformed; the ethos of the school, the clear strategic structure, the interpretation of the New Curriculum and the exciting, enriching opportunities this affords for all the children, enabling increased achievement for all. Children are now engaged, enquiring and active with a love of learning.

Mrs Blanden is a determined, perceptive and resourceful practitioner who articulates with passion her great vision for the school, that 'St. Francis will become a beacon for Catholic education everywhere.' This is a vision that we share and we are delighted to be able to support her on every step of the journey.

Yours,

Sarah Whitbread
Chair of Governors