

Dear Parents,

It is with great pleasure that we are able to share with you the exciting changes that are to take place this September at St. Mary's.

To further develop our pastoral provision and to ensure a smoother transition from Lower to Upper School we are moving to a Vertical Tutoring system. This means that children from Year 4 -6 will be mixed in their Form groups which will also be their House groups. There will be two Forms per House and three Houses; therefore we will have six Form groups led by six Form Tutors. There will also be supporting Tutors who will work alongside forms as required. There will be parallel groups in each House providing flexibility should any problems arise. This is purely a pastoral provision – children will continue to be taught in their year groups for all subjects including PSHE.

In Form time and pastoral sessions children will benefit from the support of the children across Upper School. A reading buddy system will also be implemented and the new Year Fours will have the encouragement from their elder peers as they embark on a new stage of their education.

The children will remain in this Form group for the duration of the Upper School providing continuity for the child, parents and teachers. This should provide strong relationships between the three with communication being paramount. Each term Academic reviews will take place between Form Tutor and pupil ensuring that optimum learning and target setting are at the centre of what we do.

As we embark on this new era of St. Mary's we would like to give the children the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the naming of the three new Houses. As a School we would like the Houses to be linked to Lincolnshire in some way. These will be three completely new Houses, with new groupings of children, based on careful discussion amongst the staff to ensure that the dynamics work well for all children in our School.

As a staff we are very excited about this new venture and how this will shape the next sixty years of St. Mary's.

We look forward to seeing you at the future events this term and if you wish to discuss Vertical Tutoring with any member of staff please do not hesitate to.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Salmond Smith
Headmaster

Penny Ford
Deputy Head