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Head Teacher: Ms. Gillian Carver

14th December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

It is with a mixture of pride and sadness that I am writing to you in my final week of term time, prior to my retirement at the end of December.

Pride that I have been so privileged to have had the opportunity to work with so many wonderful young people, their loving families and the talented staff team that support them and sadness that I shall no longer be an everyday part of this amazingly vibrant, multicultural, St Ann's community where everyone's contributions are valued, nurtured and celebrated and each individual student or adult is encouraged to be the best they can possibly be.

Having previously worked in both mainstream and special school settings, I joined St Ann's in January 1988 as Head of Post 16. In April 1993 I became Deputy Headteacher and in January 2002 I took up post as Headteacher. I have experienced many personal and professional changes since 1988, including the birth of my three children, the introduction of the National Curriculum, two SEN Codes of Practice, two major building projects and an increase in St Ann's population from 60 to 110.

Throughout the whole of this period I have never failed to be in awe of the parents/carers, grandparents, brothers, sisters and other family members who love and support their young person with unwavering tenacity, whatever life throws at them and yet still have the energy and capacity to encourage and celebrate their student's learning whilst supporting St Ann's in the process.

I have also been extremely privileged to work alongside and watch so many young staff grow and develop their expertise, compassion and understanding of the very special personalities, attributes and interests that our students have and become excellent special educational needs practitioners in their own right.

I may now be older (and possibly slightly wiser!) but my enthusiasm and passion for meeting the needs of students with complex profound to severe learning difficulties has never diminished. How could it, when each and every day there are so many magical moments created by our young people within this very special place of learning.

As I look to the future I intend to keep busy and have lots of new adventures but St Ann's will always have a very special place in my heart. I will never forget how like-minded, passionate people can achieve so much when everyone works together for the common good of achieving the best possible outcomes for each of our students and their families.

I am confident that in the coming years St Ann's will go on from strength to strength and have a bright future in the very capable hands of Timmy and his talented staff team.

I wish you all good things and a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely



Gillian Carver
Headteacher.

