



ST MARY'S SCHOOL ASCOT

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6 July 2018

Dear Parents

I am delighted and excited to announce on behalf of the Board of Governors that Mrs Danuta Staunton will succeed Mrs Breen as Headmistress. After a long and thorough recruitment process which attracted many first class candidates, Mrs Staunton, the ninth St Mary's member of staff to move onto Headship in the last 20 years, is the unanimous choice of the Board of Governors, a decision strongly endorsed by Council Members.

Mrs Staunton, who has taught English at St Mary's since 2010, has been a member of the Senior Management and Education Team at St Mary's since 2016. Over her time here, and during the recruitment process, it has become apparent to the Board that Mrs Staunton's skills, expertise and personality make her a natural and worthy choice as successor to Mrs Breen.

Mrs Staunton attended St Augustine's Priory, Ealing, prior to gaining a first class honours degree in English Literature at the University of York. She gained a distinction for her MA in Renaissance Literature, also at York, prior to attaining her PGCE at King's College London. After a role in publishing with the Ark Group in London, Mrs Staunton joined the English Department at St Mary's. She has worked as a Year Coordinator, Deputy Head of House and then joined the senior management team with a broad portfolio of academic and co-curricular responsibilities including external communications. Mrs Staunton's broader interests, in addition to reading widely, include playing the piano and the saxophone, and boxing!

The Board of Governors are especially delighted that Mrs Breen will be able to work very closely with Mrs Staunton during the coming academic year to help her prepare for taking up the reins in September 2019. Mrs Staunton has said how much she is looking forward to meeting the current parents she has not yet met as well as meeting prospective parents and the wider St Mary's family during 2018/19. From this September, Mrs Staunton will be appointed Headmistress Elect. She and her husband, Jan, who is a software engineer specialising in big data in the financial services industry, will move onto site at St Mary's so that they can play a full role in the life of the community in the handover year.

Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England Number 01844327

Registered Charity Number 290286

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On behalf of the whole St Mary's community I would like to thank my fellow Governors for the time and energy that they have deployed in support of this recruitment process. I look forward to thanking Mrs Breen and celebrating her many achievements over the last 20 years during the coming academic year; we are all thrilled and confident that her legacy will be built on and further developed under the leadership of Mrs Staunton.

I wish you and your daughters a very happy summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Hunt', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Martin Hunt
Chairman of Governors