

Dear Parents / Carers

### **New Headteacher Appointment**

The Governing Body of St.Nicholas Catholic High School is delighted to announce the appointment of Mr Richard Woods to succeed as Headteacher of our school following the retirement of Mr Kelly at the end of this year. Mr Woods is due to commence his duties at Easter 2017 but I will keep you updated should discussions allow an earlier release from his current commitments.

The Governors had identified a very stringent and rigorous list of required criteria for applicants to the post in order that the new Headteacher would have the ability to maintain, and also develop upon, the excellent educational standards as established during the seven year Headship of Mr Kelly within our outstanding school.

Following a very demanding two day interview process involving Governors, staff, students, along with senior representatives from the Diocese and Local Authority, it was unanimously agreed that Mr Woods met and exceeded our requirements in every way.

Mr Woods is currently in his fourth year as Headteacher at St. Josephs R.C. High School in Bolton. Having graduated in 1995 his teaching career progressed, becoming a Head of Religious Education in 2001 and further promotion to a Deputy Headship in 2009.

The following comments may help you to share in our enthusiasm and excitement;

*"an incisive, astute and gifted headteacher with a compelling vision of school improvement based on developing a culture of high aspirations and ambition for all" (Ofsted)*

*'the school is led by an inspirational headteacher who is rapidly driving the school forward' (Section 48 inspection at St. Josephs School)*

*'an insightful headteacher who has a razor-sharp focus on high aspirations and achievement for all students' (Ofsted)*

And in Mr Woods' own words;

*"Having visited St Nicholas and experienced first-hand the unique atmosphere that it offers, I believe that my leadership experience to date affords me the opportunity to offer in return a dedicated and charismatic Headteacher who understands fully the mission and purpose of Catholic education."*

In sharing this wonderful news with you, I should also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Kelly for his total and professional support to the Governors during the recruitment process along with his outstanding skills of leadership and management in establishing St. Nicholas as a truly excellent school. We would have struggled to attract the interest from the very best candidates had the school not enjoyed its current stature and respect.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Perls', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**David A. Perls**  
Chair of Governors