



The
**CHATHAM & CLARENDON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL**
Federation

www.ccgrammarschool.co.uk

Chair of Directors: *Mrs W Farrier* Chief Executive: *Mr D J Smart*

Dear Parents & Students

It is with decidedly mixed feelings I am writing to let you know that I will be leaving my post as Principal of Chatham & Clarendon at the end of this school year. After 35 years working in 8 schools, 13 years as a Headteacher, I have decided that the time is right to (semi) retire and take a short break from headship, before perhaps seeking a new direction in education.

It has been an honour to serve as the first Executive Head/Principal of Chatham & Clarendon, and to steer the Federation through the early years of its development. Despite the frustration of the cancellation of the BSF Wave 4 project which would have united the school on the Chatham House site, and recent significant cuts to core education budgets, there are now secure foundations from which to achieve the vision of a single school. Federating Chatham & Clarendon has increased opportunities for students, within, across and beyond the curriculum. The popularity and success of the unified Sixth Form, CCVI, is a major strength, exam results & progression to university/college have improved. The first stage of integrating the boys and girls in a shared learning environment with a single identity has been accomplished. Inevitably it is going to take time for all to adjust to such a major, transformational change, so the measured approach of gradually moving towards full merger by incremental stages will continue.

I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to a large number of people. First and foremost my thanks go to all my colleagues – teachers and support staff -they work incredibly hard and their talent and commitment is the foundation which underpins the success and reputation of the school. Thanks to my fellow governors for their unwavering support through some challenging times; they deserve credit for having the vision to see what needed to be done to secure the long-term future of the school, and the courage to take difficult decisions. Last but not least my thanks to the students who are a delight to work with, and whose positive approach helps us to maintain such a positive ethos here: they are a credit to themselves and to their parents.

My congratulations and very best wishes go to **Debra Liddicoat**, presently Vice Principal and Head of School at the Upper School (Clarendon) site, who will be taking over from the start of September. Following interviews on 12/6/12 the governors appointed Debra as Acting Principal, for 2012-14 in the first instance. The Federation is now well-placed to go forward over the next few years: the budget position has been stabilised, this summer we had over 50 appeals for places in Year 7 at Chatham & Clarendon, and record numbers of applicants for the CCVI which looks set to rise to over 450 Sixth Form students from September. Plans to deliver achievable bids for capital projects to improve the buildings have been submitted and are now being considered by central government. The “*Good To Outstanding/G2O*” staff development programme is well-embedded, with the majority of observed lessons now graded 1 or 2, and colleagues working hard to extend innovative approaches to students’ learning. I will be working closely with Debra for the next two months to ensure that the transition is as seamless as possible, and I wish her and CCGS every success in the future.

David Smart,
Principal

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