



St. Antony's Catholic College

in partnership with Loreto Grammar School

The time has come once more to invite Year 6 pupils to our annual Open Evening and take the opportunity to tour the school. Last year our Open Evening was extremely popular and therefore we have decided to extend our Open Evening to a three hour window. The date and time is as follows:

THURSDAY 28th SEPTEMBER – 4pm to 7pm **(Headteacher talks at 5pm and 6pm)**

It is now close to four years since I took up the post of Headteacher and during that time the school has undergone many changes. In 2016 and 2017 we achieved some of the best results in the history of the school and in 2018 we are predicting to surpass these results by some way. It is heartening to say that over the course of the last few years, the local community have recognised our improvements and this in turn has given our children a sense of pride in the school. As a consequence of these improvements it is likely that we shall be oversubscribed in Year 7 next year.

One of the main questions that I have been often asked recently is *how have we brought about these improvements?* There is no short answer to this question but I have picked out four key areas that we have focussed upon:

- **Developing a culture of high expectations for all of our children**
- **High quality teaching**
- **Investing resources in all year groups of the school**
- **Fostering a happy atmosphere in which children can thrive**

The fourth area deserves a little more explanation. St Antony's is a small secondary school, which allows our staff to really get to know the children. Perhaps the best way to describe our school is that it is the closest you will find to a primary school in terms of both atmosphere and our relationships with the children. Our size allows us to get to know the gifts and talents and strengths and weaknesses of our young people. Furthermore as a Catholic school, we believe strongly in reaching out to all people and in this spirit of inclusivity, we welcome applications from children of other faiths or of no faith. One final factor, which contributes to our happy atmosphere, is our mixed sex status. As I am sure you are aware, St Antony's is one of the few mixed sex schools in this area. For many parents and pupils this is important to them when selecting a secondary school. We believe this balance further contributes to the community life of the school, helping our pupils both socially and academically.

I am very proud of our growing school community and I am looking forward to sharing more details with you during the Open Evening. We expect the night to be busy but please be assured that we will make time for everybody and answer any questions you may have. We understand that moving to secondary school is a big change and we will always strive to make the transition as smooth as possible. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and once more, I look forward to seeing you on Thursday 28th September.

With kind regards,

Mrs Fiona Wright - Headteacher

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