

Our Ref: DMC/CAS

10<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted and proud to have been appointed as the new Headteacher for Holyrood Academy and I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. I have been part of what is an ambitious and talented Senior Leadership Team at Holyrood as a Deputy Headteacher for the past 3 and a half years and prior to this, I was an Assistant Head Teacher in Plymouth for 4 years. My previous roles have involved responsibility for Pastoral Care, Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 provision both in individual schools and across our previous Academy Trust.

I feel humbled and excited to have the opportunity to lead this school and build upon its many strengths. I am sure that some parents are understandably nervous about the changes in Leadership of Holyrood and I wish to reassure the community that I am very aware of the strengths and areas for development of the Academy. Every decision I make will have the very best interests of our students at heart and I welcome your feedback on any aspect of what we do.

I believe that the best schools have very open and positive relationships with parents and carers and as such, I would like to invite you to a meeting on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 18:00 in the Upper Site Hall. I will give a short presentation and this will be followed by refreshments and the opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have of my Senior Leadership Team and I.

My beliefs about education are very simple: I believe that every student, regardless of background or ability, should be supported and challenged to achieve the very best they can. Academic achievement is of paramount importance here and education has a unique power to unlock doors to opportunities in the future - this is the core purpose of Holyrood. We are a comprehensive school and as such we are absolutely committed to making sure that every child's ambitions are nurtured and encouraged. Alongside this and of equal importance is the wider set of opportunities that students get to experience success on the stage, in the art studio, on a trip or on the sports field. I make no apology for wanting our students to achieve fantastically well whilst enjoying school in a happy and safe environment.

As well as being a committed Headteacher, I am a keen sportsman who can usually be found cycling or taking part in triathlon. I have been married to my amazingly supportive wife for 7 years and we have two young children.

I will be spending the next few weeks visiting lessons, talking to students about their experiences at Holyrood and making clear the high expectations we have of students and staff which will allow us to deliver an even better school experience for all. I will be holding a number of events over the next term to meet as many of you as I can so that we can discuss the building of an even more successful partnership. These events

will be at different times which I hope will allow most families who wish to attend to do so.

I very much look forward to meeting you to share my vision and plans for the school in greater detail. I have greatly appreciated the many positive messages of support I have received from students and parents. I thank you for your support of school policies and continued proactive involvement in your child's education. I am very fortunate to lead a dedicated and skilled team of staff who work tirelessly in the best interests of our students.

If you have any questions, concerns or would like to meet with me individually, please contact my PA, Mrs Cathy Stuckey ([cstuckey@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:cstuckey@educ.somerset.gov.uk)) who will book us an appointment.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D MacCormick', written in a cursive style.

Mr D MacCormick  
Headteacher