



***'Excellence, Enjoyment and achievement together in a nurturing Christian Community'
'They will soar on wings like Eagles – Isaiah 40:31'***

July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I prepare to say goodbye to St Helen's, I have found myself reflecting on the journey we have shared over the past twelve years. It has been one of the greatest privileges of my career to serve this wonderful school community, and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the trust, kindness and support you have shown me throughout my time here.

When I arrived in 2014, alongside Mr Spens, the previous Headteacher, St Helen's was a very different school. We had fewer than 200 pupils, extra-curricular opportunities were limited, and the school had been judged as Requires Improvement by Ofsted. While there were undoubtedly challenges, I could immediately see the potential of this school and the strength of its community.

Today, our pupil numbers have grown to over 200, reflecting the confidence that families place in our school. Together, we have successfully navigated four Ofsted inspections, with our two most recent inspections recognising the strength and consistency of our education, alongside two SIAMS inspections, the latest taking place this year. These outcomes reflect the hard work and commitment of everyone connected with St Helen's.

The school environment has also been transformed, both inside and out. A huge thank you must go to the Friends of St Helen's and to the many volunteers who have given up countless hours to organise events, raise funds and improve our school. Your generosity has helped create an environment where children can truly flourish.

I am particularly proud of the extraordinary growth in the opportunities available to our children beyond the classroom. The range of sporting, musical and extra-curricular activities is almost unrecognisable compared with a decade ago. These experiences have helped children discover new talents, develop confidence, build friendships and create memories that will last a lifetime. Our sporting achievements have been built upon the willingness of staff and volunteers to give their own time so that children could experience opportunities they might otherwise never have had.

Yet, while inspections, results and enrichment are important, they are only part of the story.

The true strength of St Helen's has always been its people - the St Helen's Community.

The relationships between staff, children and families are what make this school such a special place. Thank you for trusting us with your children, for working alongside us and for believing in what we do. Together, we have built a community where children feel safe, valued and inspired to achieve their very best.

When my dad passed away last September, I was genuinely overwhelmed by the kindness shown by so many parents and carers and family members. The messages, conversations and support meant more than I can ever express. During one of the most difficult periods of my life, the St Helen's community reminded me exactly what makes this school so special. It is a place where people genuinely care for one another.

Some of my favourite memories have come long after children have left St Helen's. Meeting former pupils years later and hearing about the paths they have taken is always a privilege. Just a few weeks ago, when dropping off my son at his Year 11 Prom, a group of former St Helen's pupils stopped me for a photograph and a catch-up. I have received messages from former pupils and parents describing how their experiences here shaped their lives, including one former pupil who is now training to become a primary school teacher because of the positive experiences he had at St Helen's.

Those moments remind me that education is about far more than academic success. It is about helping children become kind, confident and compassionate young people.

Our recent SIAMS inspection reflected this beautifully:

"Compassionate and determined leaders drive the vision so that it can be a lived experience. Their commitment and service to the whole school community transforms lives. Consequently, parents value the way leaders go 'above and beyond' their expectations."

It also recognised that:

"Senior leaders prioritise developing and sustaining positive relationships throughout the school community. These relationships ensure pupils, including those considered vulnerable, and their families, are nurtured and cared for. This allows them to 'fly high' regardless of their starting point."

Those comments mean a great deal to me because they capture what I have always believed — that relationships with the community are the foundation of everything we do, and we always put the children first.

When I first walked through the doors in 2014, I simply hoped to make a positive difference. As I leave, I do so knowing that everything we have achieved has only been possible because of the support of our children, families, governors, staff and volunteers.

Finally, thank you to every parent and carer who has supported the school over the years. Whether you have volunteered your time, attended performances and sporting events, raised funds, supported your children with their learning at home or simply placed your trust in us each day, you have played an important part in St Helen's story.

It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to serve as your Head of School. I leave with immense pride, enormous gratitude and memories that I will treasure forever.

I wish every child and every family every happiness and success in the years ahead. St Helen's will always hold a very special place in my heart.

Thank you for everything. With my sincere thanks and very best wishes,

Kelvin



Thank you and good luck!

'Excellence, Enjoyment and achievement together in a nurturing Christian Community'

'They will soar on wings like Eagles – Isaiah 40:31'

