

18 September 2018

Dear parents/carers

I am writing to introduce myself to you all and as I begin to settle at St Joseph's having taken over from Mr Horrobin, I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can in these early days of the new school year.

My name is Mr Bazen and, as outlined above, I have taken on the role of SENCO from September. I am also the Designated Safeguarding Lead, as well as a member of the senior leadership team.

I join St Joseph's Catholic School at an exciting time with the school having recently been inspected and rated Good; with exam results this summer indicating that we are one of the top 5 performing schools in Wiltshire for progress made by our Y11s; and, with the school having opened its wonderful new building and grown to its largest number on roll, it is safe to say that St Joseph's is thriving.

As a senior manager with over 20 years of leadership experience, I am looking forward to using my knowledge, skills and expertise to contribute to the future development of our school and importantly, the success of your children as we work in partnership together.

Inevitably, there will be times when it may feel that things are not going as well. As I have always said to staff and parents, if we know about it, we can begin to deal with it.

I am of the firm opinion that home and school work best in partnership and we will do all we can to 'walk with you' as the journey at St Joseph's Catholic School unfolds. This may involve other services and lead professionals for some of you and I will be as transparent and communicative as I can be to help achieve the best outcomes for your child or children.

I am acutely aware that I have met some of you on the gate or had other communication with you by phone, email or even in person. I am sure you will appreciate that in a school of over 550 and with many of our students needing differing levels of support, some more than others, and some at different points than others, we will do our level best to respond to any concerns as swiftly as we can. It is for this reason that we have appointed Miss Kathryn Lowe as Assistant SENCO to help manage the workload and, as I write, Mrs Ridley and I are looking at the ways we may be able to extend provision. As soon as I know more, and providing the budgetary constraints we know that the public sector has been facing allows, I will share any additions to the SEN team with you.

Finally, for those with whom I have had the pleasure of meeting, my thanks to helping me to build upon what I already know about your child or children and to those I have yet to meet, please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience. You may book an appointment by emailing ksn@sjcs.org.uk

I look forward to working with you all

Yours sincerely

Mr A Bazen SENCO, Designated Safeguarding Lead and Senior Leadership team