

19<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Dear Parents,

I write this, my final letter to you as Headteacher of St James the Great School, as I said in yesterday's Newsletter, with very mixed emotions. I have been very fortunate in my working life to have had a career that is second to none and I have enjoyed my 45 years in Catholic Education enormously. As with all employment some days are better than others but my time at St James the Great has been the 'icing on the cake'. Here I have had the support of the best staff a Headteacher could ask for. They are a true team, teaching and support alike and have time and time again pulled together to provide the very best possible for your children and to secure the "Outstanding" rating for the school. The team has been successfully supplemented with exceptional governors and support from the two parishes we serve, St Andrew's, Thornton Heath, and St Bartholomew's, Norbury. I will use in the current Ofsted jargon the term 'triangulate' to add the pupil dimension and you as parents who truly make the school as great as its name suggests.

I conclude, therefore, by expressing my sincere appreciation for all your contributions to our community. I could not have had a better send-off. I have been 'feted', 'flattered' and 'fed' with much fun. I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of all of you and cannot thank you enough. I have been provided with a lifetime of memories and will, once I get a chance to take a break, enjoy the cards and gifts I have received. I accept them on behalf of all who have made my job possible.

I will follow the journey of St James the Great School from a distance as it will always be a part of me. I am confident you have in my successor, Mr Christopher Andrew, someone who will preserve what is good about our school whilst bringing a fresh pair of eyes that will secure change for the better over the years ahead. I ask you to lend him the support you have given me. I wish you and your children every good wish for the future. May God bless you all.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S C Beck  
Headteacher