

Provost's News

Dear Friends

It hardly seems possible that half term is almost upon us. So much has happened since my last e newsletter and I am grateful for this opportunity to share some of it with you.

New Education Director

I am delighted to announce on behalf of David Bilton, Chairman of Woodard Schools, that the Board has appointed Chris Wright, Head of St Peter's CE High School and International Language College, an affiliated school, as Director of Education.

We had a strong internal field for this appointment, and the panel included Mark Allbrook, Chair of the Woodard Heads' Association, Tony Jarvis, Chair of the Woodard Education Committee, and Elizabeth Mullenger, member of the Board and former Head of Edgbaston High School for Girls.

Chris has extensive experience of both the maintained and independent sectors, is much published, and has international and national experience in education, particularly in school leadership. We have been grateful to Chris for some time for his help in the writing of the Academy Education briefs and in negotiating with the DCSF. As we build towards 2011, the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Nathaniel Woodard, he will be a great asset to the team at the centre. Chris hopes to begin his new work early in 2009, at a date yet to be agreed.

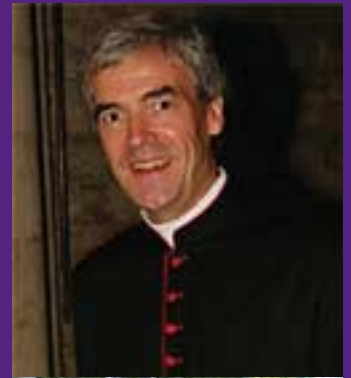
New Academy Principal Designate

We have appointed our first Principal Designate of a Woodard Academy. Carole Bailey will join us in January 2009 as Principal Designate of The Woodard Academy at Boundstone in Lancing and Sompting, West Sussex. Carole is currently Head of King Ethelbert School in Birchington, Kent on the Isle of Thanet. Carole has a proven track record and she has taken the school from 'serious weaknesses' in 1998 to 'outstanding' in the 2006 Ofsted report, where it was described as 'an inspiring school that provides an outstanding education'.

Carole has a background and Masters in Religious Studies which should help us significantly as we turn a secular community school into a faith academy.

I'm sure you will join me in welcoming Carole to the Woodard Family and you will be able to catch up with her at the Heads' Conference in January.

In the meantime we are still recruiting for the Principal Designate of Littlehampton. An application pack for what will be Woodard's largest school is available on www.woodardwestsussexacademies.org.uk



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Comings and goings...



I was delighted to install the new Head of Ranby, David Sibson, at a Eucharist on Sunday 14th September, Holy Cross Day. David has been Deputy Head of Ranby for some time, so he knows and loves the school. We wish David well for his time as Head.

Pictured from left to right: Tom Fremantle (Custos), David Sibson (Headmaster of Ranby House School), me, and Father Simon Paul (Chaplain, Ranby House School) in Ranby House School Chapel after the Service of Commissioning for the new Headmaster



Last Friday, at the weekly Eucharist at Abbots Bromley, the new Custos, Prebendary Helen Ball OBE, made her declarations before fellow governors, members of staff, and pupils. This was an excellent way of marking up publicly the responsibilities of the Chair of Governors. Do any other schools do the same thing? I'd be pleased to hear from you. And if not may I commend this as an excellent way of bringing together Governors, Staff and students?

Pictured from left to right: Trish Woodhouse, Head, me and Helen Ball

We'd also like to welcome a number of new Custodes:-

- Peter Davey at The Cathedral School, Llandaff
- Pippa Gee at Denstone College
- Gerry Mulder at St Margaret's School, Exeter
- Dominic Stone at Smallwood Manor Preparatory School

Some of you may know that Bishop Lindsay Urwin OGS is to move from his post as Bishop of Horsham to be Episcopal Administrator of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. He is determined to remain as Provost of the Southern Region and I am delighted that he wishes to continue this important work alongside his new role. He is to move in February 2009. He does so with our very best wishes and gratitude for all he does for Woodard Schools. In the fullness of time I look forward to developing links between Woodard School and the Shrine, and I know I can count on his support in this regard.



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Academy Update:

As well as Carole's appointment, I'm delighted to inform you that in July Lord Adonis signed the funding agreement for both Woodard West Sussex Academies. The Academy at Boundstone will serve the local communities of Lancing and Sompting, with places for 1,200 students plus 200 places for sixth form students. The Academy will build on the current school's reputation for performing arts with a specialist status in this area as well as Mathematics. The Academy at Boundstone will receive £27 million of capital funding, including £5 million for state of the art Information Communication Technology.

The Littlehampton Academy will receive £31 million in order to transform its learning environment, which will also include £5 million for Information Communication Technology. It will have places for 1,650 students as well as a sixth form for 250 students. The Academy will continue the current school's specialist status for Business and Enterprise as well as introducing a new specialism of English.

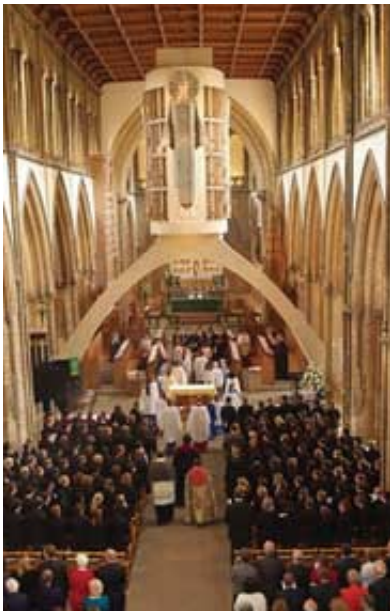
Both Academies will open in the current school buildings and will undergo a major rebuilding and modernisation programme that will be completed in the 2011/2012 academic year.

It is a very exciting time in the history of Woodard and our thanks go to the chairman of the Woodard Academies Trust, Roy Wisdom and to Woodard's Academies Development Director, Peter Rawlinson for all their hard work over the last 12 months.

I attended the open evening for the new Academy at Littlehampton the other day. Nearly 500 people attended and were queuing up outside the packed sports hall half an hour before the event started. It just shows the local excitement and enthusiasm towards our Academy programme.

Please don't forget that you can catch up with the latest Academy news on www.woodard.co.uk/academies.

Events



On 24th September the Cathedral School, Llandaff, celebrated 50 years of its entrance into Woodard and its moving to the current site with a Solemn Eucharist concelebrated by the Archbishop of Wales and Bishop John Kirkham, Provost of Taunton. This was a great occasion culminating in the release of 200 golden balloons by reception and pre-preparatory children. We extend hearty congratulations to The Cathedral School as they go from strength to strength.

Wednesday 1st October saw a gathering of 350 Years 7 & 8 pupils in Lichfield Cathedral for the Pilgrimage. In fact we could have had twice the number, so oversubscribed was the occasion. The day contained a Sing Along, a splendid Eucharist, tours of the Cathedral and a



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concluding baptismal liturgy. Well over £500 was collected for the charity WaterAid. Many thanks to everyone who came along, to the good people at Lichfield Cathedral, especially the Canon Precentor, Fr. Wealands Bell, and to the extremely professional musicians, CJM. I am delighted that the pilgrimage initiative has so caught the imagination of staff and students alike.

Looking forward for a moment: on Monday 13th October I shall be welcoming the King's School Rochester into the Woodard family at a Eucharist in the Cathedral; Ranby House celebrates its Diamond Jubilee next Saturday; a day for Midland Region retired Fellows takes place at Abbots Bromley on Tuesday 14th October; the Western Region Governor Training Day takes place at Kings Hall Taunton on Thursday 16th October, open to all; and we look forward to the Custodes Conference and many other events in November.

Finally, all school heads will shortly be receiving a letter containing the access codes and passwords for the private section of the Woodard website. You'll be able to download forms, access the online Kalendar and keep up to date on activity. This area will continue to develop so please send your comments to Elisabeth Lewis-Jones on lis@liquidpr.co.uk

Woodard continues to be a happening place...

Thank you for reading and please forward on to your school community



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