



Head of School: Mrs D Ritchie  
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30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

### Headteacher Appointment

Following an intensive recruitment process, spread over two days, I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Catherine Lennox has been appointed as the substantive Headteacher at St Wilfrid's RC College. She will take up this post from 1st September 2024. This is a statutory Headteacher post, which replaces the current arrangement where we had both an Executive Headteacher and Head of School. These changes were required after Mrs Francesca Craik announced she was moving into a Trust position earlier this year.

The recruitment of a permanent Headteacher is the most important appointment a school makes. A special appointment panel involving Directors of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust, Standards Officers, a Diocesan Recruitment Advisor and myself were involved in the process. There were focused panel interviews and several tasks in addition to a presentation, where candidates outlined their ambition for our school.

Already highly respected within the school and wider community, Mrs Lennox's appointment will ensure stability is maintained St Wilfrid's RC College as we change our leadership structure. She comes with a wealth of knowledge and success in all aspects of school and community life. Her ambition aligns with our St Wilfrid's community goals where we aspire to ensure that every student achieves their full potential and leaves school with the skills, knowledge, values and moral purpose to live their lives to the full.

Mrs Lennox will write to you herself in due course, both to formally introduce herself and share her vision for our school, to work in partnership towards our collective vision of 'Excellence through faith, learning and support'.

With Mrs Lennox's appointment, and her skills, drive, energy and commitment she will bring to her leadership, we can be optimistic that the strong, stable and successful performance of the school will continue. I'm sure you will welcome Mrs Lennox into her new role and I ask you to keep her, and all our school community, in your prayers at this exciting time of transition.

It is also with regret that I inform you that Mrs Denise Ritchie will sadly be leaving St Wilfrid's this summer. I would like to thank her for her 24 years of service at St Wilfrid's, and her significant contribution to the success of the school, including co-leading us through the recent excellent Ofsted inspection, the outcome of which we shared with you recently. We give thanks for her many gifts which have served thousands of South Tyneside children over the years. We wish Mrs Ritchie well in her new ventures and shall miss her greatly.

Yours sincerely

Geraldine Kilgour  
Chair of Governors