



Thursday, 04 March 2021

UPDATE ON THE RECRUITMENT OF NEW PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians

With great pleasure and excitement, I announce that we have recruited **Mr Martin Nugent** to assume the role of Principal of St. Ignatius Catholic School.

After eight weeks of an extensive search and interview process, 25 candidates applied for the principal position, of which five were invited for an interview. After careful review and analysis, in-depth interviews, the consensus arrived by the Recruitment Committee, which included members with the requisite education administration expertise, and fully supported by the members of the School Advisory Committee, Mr Nugent was the top choice out of the highly competitive and qualified group of professional educational leaders.

The necessary documents and permits have been processed, and we anticipate **Mr Nugent's arrival in mid March**. He will be in mandatory quarantine as required by the government's regulations.



Mr. Martin Nugent

Mr Martin Nugent has a teaching background that spans 30 years, working for some of the most prestigious Catholic schools in England and setting up three international schools.

He first became a headteacher over ten years ago, becoming one of the first Catholic academy Principals and Directors in the UK, leading four primary schools, a large secondary and four sixth form colleges.

During this time, he led, managed, and participated in many national and international projects, such as HMI's (Her Majesty's Inspectorate) Literacy project, development of English and Mathematics examinations for the Department of Education, and became chair of the Staffordshire District Partnership for school improvement. He also worked for both HMI and OFSTED on school inspections.

In his co-curricular work, he led teams that came first place in the National Citizenship Award, The Princess Diana Memorial Award, the Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) Award and the UK Equality and Diversity Awards. One of his fun-based learning co-curricular projects was called “Learn Italian and meet the Pope!” which allowed students to do precisely that. Students who completed the language course visited Rome and were granted a private audience with Pope Benedict.

Alongside this, Mr Nugent worked on behalf of the Catholic church in the UK to set up the first national diocesan Youth Mission Team and retreat centre (YMT). He supported the Catholic chaplaincy at Birmingham University and designed the Catholic Youth Alpha programme and Café Project for adults. For his local Church, St. Joseph’s near Lichfield, Staffordshire, Mr Nugent was a ministry team member that visited Young Offenders in Prison and led the children’s Liturgy, Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes.

I’m confident that Mr Nugent’s impressive qualifications and wealth of academic leadership experience will complement and reinforce St Ignatius’s long-standing reputation for educational excellence.

In closing, I would like to thank the St. Ignatius Senior Leadership Team, faculty, staff, parents and our amazing students for their patience and support during this critical hiring process.

In Christ,

Rev. Father Naveen D’Souza SAC
Parish Administrator