



16 December 2020

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Dear Parents, Carers and Staff

I hope that you are well and that your Christmas plans whether busy or quiet bring you and your families much joy.

This has been quite some year, one of the most challenging of my professional career and like so many of us I am looking forwards to writing 2021 on correspondence. As I reflect upon the year gone past it is with mixed emotions. I am immensely proud of the St Andrew's staff. Throughout the pandemic and the school move they have shown up and stepped up - whether that has been in volunteering to work over the lockdown period to adapting to the frequent rule changes post August, or even now to learning to work in different ways and alongside our Academy colleagues, the staff at St Andrew's have done so with a positive mindset and a determination to do the best that they can for our pupils.

I am grateful, as are all of us, for the continued support of our parents. There were many 'iterations' of the new St Andrew's School and the relentless work over many years of the St Andrew's Parent Council, alongside many other committed parents has helped to ensure that our school not only had 'its own front door' which was so important to us but also has been equipped to an extremely high standard which will ultimately benefit the pupils in ways which would not have been possible before.

The Friends of St Andrew's are often the unsung heroes of the School and have continued to fund raise for us even in these difficult times. Staff are thankful for the opportunity to bid for extra funding to enable projects to go ahead where capital expenditure may have been a barrier. I'm not sure how widely known it is just how much they contribute not just to financial support but also in discussions around funding directions and priorities.

Perhaps predictably, overall, the pupils have managed the transition almost seamlessly. The investment in the extra time to ensure a smooth transition certainly paid off. You will doubtless be able to see from the photos in the newsletter that happiness abounds at school.

One blot on the horizon has been losing Seesaw. One of the main priorities for us moving forwards is to secure another platform. It is difficult to envisage how Seesaw can be matched in terms of its ease of use and feedback has already suggested that it is sorely missed. Please remember that teachers will respond to emails and phone calls if you have any questions. We are currently looking at the 'Interactive Learning Diary' and 'Marvellous me' as possible replacements.

My wish for next year is that as a school we get braver, we say 'yes' more often, we go and seek out new opportunities for growth and development and that we continue work together as a St Andrew's Community in order to secure the best for all our pupils - I hope and believe that in 2021 we will achieve this and more.

Wishing you all the very best.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gina Drummond".

Gina Drummond