



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

a Catholic Voluntary Academy

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Headteacher: Mrs M Dengate M.Phil

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14 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of term, we also approach the final days of Mrs Cain's career at St Mary's.

Mrs Cain has been an exemplary colleague for 36 years and from her first day, in September 1984, has embodied the ethos of St Mary's.

Her kindness, warmth, good judgement, empathy and humour have been ever-present during her years at the school.

All of us, staff and pupils, have benefited from her presence.

As Designated Safeguarding Lead she has expertly ensured the safety and welfare of children over many years. Pupils feel safe in her presence and confident in the knowledge that they are her absolute priority.

Her role in leading admissions, behaviour, pastoral care and safeguarding have been at the very centre of our school's life. She has always led from the front, with both compassion and confident humility.

Her service has been exceptional. She has the rare gift of engendering respect and compliance, whilst always offering pupils an opportunity to make things right and successfully move forward.

Her witness to the Catholic faith has helped to shape St Mary's and her legacy will live on. Indeed, she has expertly prepared Mr Breedon and Miss McKay to take over many of her roles and she and I have full confidence in both of them.

From a personal point of view, it has been an honour and privilege to work alongside Mrs Cain over the last 12 years.

I shall miss her terribly but wish her every happiness in her retirement; spending time with her family and wonderful daughters, Ann and Elizabeth, both former head girls.

I know that you will wish her a long and fulfilling retirement too.

In these final days of what has been a challenging year, please continue to keep St Mary's and its community in your prayers.

I approach 2021 with continued optimism. Your children are the greatest gift to St Mary's and the fact that Mrs Cain has dedicated 36 years of her life to their care, is the greatest testament of all.

Yours faithfully

Mrs M Dengate
Headteacher

Live, Love and Learn in the Light of Christ
