



Headteacher: **Miss K Boardman, BSc Hons**

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2nd February 2024

Dear parents and carers

New Developments at St Barnabas CE Primary School

Thank you for your ongoing support as parents and carers. I am writing to share some important news about upcoming leadership changes at St Barnabas.

After 18 years at St Barnabas, 15 of these as Headteacher, Miss Boardman will be leaving the school at Easter. She will be taking up an exciting new role within the central team of Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust where her extensive knowledge and expertise can be further utilised. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Miss Boardman for her many years of dedicated service and commitment to our school, families and wider community.

As you are aware, St Barnabas will shortly be joining Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust and the school has been working closely with both the Local Authority and Pathfinder to ensure that experienced, high quality leadership is in place from Easter.

I am delighted to say that Miss Jill Richards, currently Headteacher of Rufforth Primary School, has accepted the opportunity to share her experience and expertise in an Executive Leadership role, becoming Executive Headteacher of both St Barnabas CE Primary School and Rufforth Primary School. This new role will begin formally in the summer term, after the Easter break for an initial period of 18 months up to the end of the 2024-25 academic year. Miss Richards has worked in Pathfinder for the last 5 years and has successfully led Rufforth School to achieve an excellent [Ofsted report](#). Prior to this time, Miss Richards was the Deputy Headteacher at Elvington Primary School and has experience working in a range of different schools including church schools and inner city schools.

As part of these new arrangements, Ms Pena Harran, our current Deputy Headteacher will step up to be the Head of School. She will also continue with a teaching commitment of 2 days per week in Hadid Class, job sharing with Mrs Bruce. Whilst Ms Pena Harran will relinquish her SENDCo role in school, continued SEN support will be provided from Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust.

Miss Richards' time will be split evenly between the two schools and a timetable has already been drawn up that will allow her to maximise her time at St Barnabas, enabling her to develop strong relationships with pupils, parents and staff.

As outlined, these changes will be for a period of 18 months. and will allow both schools the opportunity for further investment and innovation in teaching and learning to ensure that all our pupils thrive. Miss Richards and Miss Boardman already have a close working relationship and will work together with Ms Pena Harran to ensure a smooth transition to the new leadership arrangements.

As part of these arrangements, parents and carers are invited to attend an information evening on Tuesday 6th February at 4pm with myself, Miss Boardman, Ms Pena Harran, Miss Richards and Andrew Daly (CEO of Pathfinder MAT). There will be a presentation with more detail on the leadership arrangements from Easter onwards and an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have.

In the meantime, Miss Boardman and Ms Pena Harran are available if you have any immediate questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. M. Williamson', followed by a horizontal line.

Anne Williamson
Chair of Governors