



16 March 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians

Foundation Management Structure

I write to inform you of a number of key management changes that are shortly to come into effect following the creation of the Foundation last year. These changes are designed to:

- Strengthen further the quality of teaching and learning in the classroom
- Retain the outstanding reputation for pastoral care and extra-curricular provision
- Reflect the close relationship between Pocklington School and Lyndhurst School
- Encourage the community to be more confident and outward-looking
- Prepare for Pocklington 500

The current senior management team is unchanged in personnel but there have been some key changes in portfolio as we reform to become a 'Foundation Management Group' designed to lead both schools towards our 500th birthday in 2014 and beyond. Each school also has a management group specific to its own needs. Those involved are also mentioned within this letter.

I have asked **Andrew Dawes** (Deputy Headmaster) to relinquish leading the pastoral care of our older pupils and to take on responsibility for managing the Foundation's external relations (marketing, admissions, communication and preparations for Pocklington 500). As part of this, Andrew is keen to offer himself as a portal for Foundation parents to chat over initiatives that can strengthen and develop our educational ambitions alongside our engagement with the extended Pocklington School community and beyond. Andrew retains his responsibilities for Pocklington School organisation, administration and major events. In this he is ably supported by Mike Evans (Senior Master) and Janice Whatford (Administration Manager).

To give Andrew the capacity to undertake the new strands of work, I have asked **David Dyson** to become Pocklington School's overall pastoral leader. His position as Assistant Head (Pastoral) becomes effective from the beginning of the Summer term. He is assisted by some familiar names in Sheena McNamee (Head of Sixth Form), Clare Swann (Head of Middle School), Margaret Newhouse (newly appointed Head of Lower School) and Tom Taylor (Director of Boarding). David Dyson has overall responsibility for pastoral links between our two schools.

Rob Smith continues to lead all aspects of the academic life of Pocklington School but evolves from being Director of Studies to Assistant Head (Academic) and is assisted by three core academic managers in Clare Bracken (Director of Staff Development), Martin Kettlewell (Director of Activities) and Jonathan Webb (recently appointed to the newly-created position of Director of Teaching and Learning, which becomes effective from the beginning of the Michaelmas term). Rob Smith has overall responsibility for academic links between our two schools.

Clare Bracken continues to assist in the academic management of Pocklington School but takes on a fresh challenge as Director of Staff Development across the Foundation, a position that will enable us to support the professional development of colleagues through a review of our appraisal and performance management practices.

There is no change to the role of **Ian Wright** (Head of Lyndhurst) and he is assisted in leading our junior school by Rob Stewart (Deputy Head), Jo Denison (newly-appointed Director of Learning, which becomes effective from the beginning of the Michaelmas term following the retirement of Sue Sumner, Director of Studies) and Russ Parker (newly-appointed Director of Activities). **Paul Bennett** (Bursar and Clerk to the Governors) retains all his existing functions, as do I, both as Headmaster of the overall Foundation and specifically in regard to Pocklington School.

I am enormously honoured to lead such a historic and forward-looking Foundation but recognise that the future success of our two schools remains intimately dependent on the experience, drive and influence of all who have an interest in the well-being and achievement of our pupils.

I will write to you shortly with regard to a small number of other appointments and of course let you know some other news items and development initiatives.

Yours sincerely

Mark Ronan