



## **St Dunstan's College**

***valete! 2020***

I take this opportunity to first thank those members of staff who have been with us for a year or less. We thank Mr Duda in Drama, Mr Jacobs in Physics and Mr Watts in History, for their excellent work covering parental leave this year. We thank Mr Quast for his work in the Junior School and wish him well as he moves on to complete his teacher training. We also thank Mr Molloy, our music graduate, for all he has contributed to the College's productions and events. Our sincere thanks to you all for everything you have done for our College community in your separate areas.

Staff with over one year of service:

### **Miss Elena Garcia-Martinez**

Miss Garcia-Martinez joined the Senior School in 2018 and quickly showed herself to be a determined, focused and resourceful Spanish language assistant. She has built excellent relationships with staff and students, putting huge amounts of time and care into encouraging the speaking of Spanish amongst the students, and building their confidence in the language. She has made it her mission to ensure students are as well-prepared for their speaking assessments as they can possibly be, and she has also put great care into decorating the MFL classrooms with fun, interesting and creative displays, aimed at establishing a vibrant classroom environment, with opportunities for student enrichment on every wall. Amongst the wider College community, she has formed strong friendships across all departments and will be missed greatly. We wish her all the very best for the future.

### **Ms Aurora Johnson**

Ms Johnson joined us in 2018 as our Graduate-in-Residence, and has been a wonderful part of the LRC team, building up a solid base of young readers, especially in lower year groups, and leading them to their first Book Awards ceremony. Her warm presence has been appreciated by the whole St Dunstan's community, and our Sixth Formers have benefitted from her keen interest in their academic studies and her gentle encouragements for them to

use the LRC and their supervised study periods to maximum effect. Her training in counselling has also been a great resource for students and staff. Ms Johnson leaves us as she relocates to the south coast, and takes with her our huge gratitude for all she has brought – we will certainly miss her cheerful disposition at the top of the building!

### **Miss Fran Low**

Miss Low has been an invaluable member of the PE department and will be sorely missed as she heads to Emanuel to take up the post of Assistant Director of Sport.

Miss Low has championed hockey from the minute she stepped through the door and its development has been phenomenal, fully capitalising on the new MUGA development at the Jubilee Ground in 2018. There has been a significant increase in the number of students taking part in College Hockey across all year groups, and under her guidance, students have gone on to play county level hockey, as well as coaching at a variety of local clubs. Miss Low has also played a pivotal role in the development of the PE curriculum and co-curricular programmes.

Miss Low will be missed greatly by all and we all wish her the best of luck in her new position.

### **Miss Gina Charleton**

Miss Charleton leaves us at the end of this year, having contributed so much in her four years at the College. She has transformed the Swimming programme, developing a progressive training structure which supports the development of swimmers at all levels. She has introduced land training, established regular local, competitive galas and even led St Dunstan's swimmers to success in National Competition. All of this demands a great deal of time, energy, enthusiasm and creativity, which she has given in abundance.

Miss Charleton has also supported the wider programme, in netball, hockey, cricket, athletics and cross country, taking on a leading role with the latter. Outside of the department, many of her tutees have benefitted significantly from her dedicated support as a tutor. She has worked tirelessly to balance her multiple roles and commitments, maintaining good humour throughout. We wish her the best of luck for the future.

### **Mr Sam Bowering**

Mr Bowering joined the History Department in September 2016. His enthusiasm and love for the subject was evident from the start and he played a pivotal role in the introduction of the new iGCSE and the reformed A Level. He has worked tirelessly to support his students, both in and out of the classroom, leading to some consistently fantastic grades, year after year. He has organised and run trips to Florence and Berlin, and did a tremendous job as Acting Head of History whilst Ms Byrne was on parental leave. He has shown dedication to his form group and to the student body as a whole, through his leadership of Student

Parliament. He has also been a key supporter of co-curricular Games since 2016, leading his Rugby teams with the same passion that he has for History. He will be greatly missed by staff and students, and we wish him all the best for his relocation to Hong Kong where he has been appointed Head of History at Kellet School.

### **Mrs Tamara Shaw**

Mrs Shaw joined St Dunstan's in 2015, initially as Head of EYFS before her appointment two years later as Head of Pre-Prep. Her promotion followed a personal mention by the Reporting Inspector for her organisation of key EYFS documentation, thorough record keeping and expert knowledge. Mrs Shaw's kind, gentle approach with both children and staff, means that she is seen as a caring teacher and trusted colleague. She is determined that the EYFS curriculum is bespoke to the needs of our pupils, and can always be on hand to think of creative and innovative ideas as to how topics can be taught to our the very youngest in our community. Mrs Shaw loves travelling, and her international adventures have certainly brought the classroom to life, as she embraces any lessons that encourage her pupils to think about different countries and cultures. Her travels may have slowed a little of late, as she steps into a completely different type of adventure, as a new mother. We wish her all the best as she takes time to focus on her family and relocate to the countryside.

### **Mr Andy Johnson**

Mr Johnson joined St Dunstan's College from the London Academy of Excellence in 2015, where he had been Deputy Head Pastoral, having previously been a Housemaster and Teacher of History at Westminster School.

He joined the College at a very different time from today, and at a point where it needed a significant injection of academic purpose and rigour. Mr Johnson undertook this task with now characteristic intellectual flare and insight. He embodies that rare combination of tenacity, matched in equal measure with humility and self-awareness, leading to the particularly high regard in which he is held by all. Mr Johnson has transformed so many areas of our academic culture, introducing Learning Scores to promote a growth mindset for pupils of all abilities, the St Dunstan's Diploma to champion excellence across the full breadth of our ambitious Sixth Form curriculum, the St Dunstan's Additional Curriculum, and our Principles of Excellent Teaching and Learning (PETALs) – now much loved by the teachers! This is to name but a few. He has also contributed extensively as part of the executive team, considering whole-College matters with an astute but human touch, shaping ideas with clarity and purpose, but always mindful of managing the consequences of change and the impact on the individual.

Mr Johnson will be sorely missed as he moves to take a Headship at Truro School, Cornwall. We know they are very fortunate to have him, and we wish Mr Johnson and his family all the very best for their relocation to a part of the country they know and care for.

### **Mr Mike Woodward**

Mr Woodward leaves us having not only contributed six years of excellent service to the College as a teacher, but with a colourful past and fond memories as an ex-pupil too. He has had significant impact on the Rugby programme and has been a part of the shifting reputation of sport at the College in recent years. Mr Woodward has worked tirelessly to provide students with additional coaching, competitive fixtures and events, video analysis, and strength and conditioning, as well as exciting 'Friday Night Light' fixtures, which are now a regular feature of the programme.

Mr Woodward has also played a significant part in the wider sporting programme, notably the development of Football, Cricket and Fives, and has also taught Physical Education across the year groups; his students have been nurtured and supported with great care and attention.

He has been an integral part of the wider College through his commitment to Usherwood House, and his pastoral work as Head of Year 11. His relentless support for every student on an individual basis is admirable.

We wish Mr Woodward and his family well on their next chapter.

### **Ms Kirsty Dickenson**

Ms Dickenson arrived at St Dunstan's six years ago. Her job title and role have evolved a little over the years, but she leaves the posts of Head of Year 5 & 6 and JS Head of Drama.

Ms Dickenson is an extremely kind, caring and calm colleague and has been extremely supportive of fellow staff and pupils, always taking the time, no matter how busy she is, to listen to others and work out how she can help.

Ms Dickenson is a very talented artist, a seasoned traveller, an experienced teacher and a lover of music and drama, all of which contributes to making her classroom a very happy and exciting place to learn. Her colleagues won't forget that as a Christmas gift one year, Ms Dickinson bought a mug for every single member of the prep staff-room, which she then decorated by hand with a personalised animation. This act sums up Ms Dickinson really; she is talented, inclusive, friendly and exceptionally kind!

We wish Ms Dickinson very well for her future.

### **Miss Kellymarie Jones**

Miss Jones has been a member of the St Dunstan's community for seven years. In her role as a Teaching Assistant, she has worked with Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children. Miss Jones's calm demeanour, positivity and enthusiasm has provided reassurance and empowerment to children throughout their early educational experiences. Her willingness to go above and beyond the requirements of her job has particularly benefitted the children in our community who experience barriers to their learning, whether it be the provision of in-class support or a targeted intervention; her kindness and patience knows no limits. Miss

Jones has been consistently dedicated to improving her knowledge and practice, particularly in the area of special educational needs. She is willing to challenge herself, taking risks implementing new strategies and approaches in her face-to-face work with children. The invaluable impact she has had on the school is notable and she will be missed dearly by children, parents and colleagues. We wish her every success with her future career as she embarks on the final year of her Psychology degree.

### **Mrs Serena deCordova**

Mrs deCordova joined St Dunstan's ten years ago as a Learning Support Assistant and quickly saw this as being her area of educational interest. The children under her care have reaped the rewards of her focused approach and individualised support. She later went on to complete her teacher training, taking responsibility for a Year 6 form before being appointed Junior School Head of Inclusion and Enrichment. Mrs deCordova has absolutely transformed the JS Inclusion and Enrichment department, building positive relationships with pupils, staff and parents, and ensuring that intervention and support is offered to all those who need it, with measurable outcomes and positive results. She has excellent knowledge of all pupils in the Junior School and can be counted upon to suggest strategies and methods which will bring out the best in the pupils and enable them to thrive, whether it be in a supportive capacity or to ensure children are appropriately challenged. Mrs deCordova is also a fierce supporter of Forder House and will do all it takes to see her team mates gain House Points; whether it is a dance, a song or race, she will be willing to give anything a try, dressed head to toe in Forder red!

### **Mrs Carolina Compton**

Mrs Compton has been a stalwart of the St Dunstan's community for 12 years. In her role as a Nursery Teaching Assistant she has welcomed over 200 pupils into our community. Mrs Compton's positivity and enthusiasm has empowered children as they encounter many first experiences; the first day of school, the first school performance, the first time writing their name, or mastering the climbing frame. She has supported children through the transition into school life with love and kindness, and many families will be forever grateful for her knowledge, encouragement and reassurance. She has been consistently dedicated to improving her practice, always eager to learn more and challenge herself to implement new ideas in the classroom. Mrs Compton has always been willing to go above and beyond for us all; sewing back drops at home, attending training on the weekends, and regularly needing to be reminded to leave on time. The positive impact she has had on our school community can never be underestimated and the children, parents and staff at St Dunstan's College will miss her dearly. We wish her all the best as she moves into a new and exciting phase of her life, and look forward to seeing her bright smile at many future St Dunstan's events.

## **Mrs Jane Williams**

Mrs Williams joined the College as an English teacher in 2001 and has been a highly valued and respected member of the College community throughout her nineteen years of service. The impact that she has had on each of her students' education during that time is immeasurable; her classroom practice is outstanding, and many an Old Dunstonian returning to the College has spoken fondly of her lessons. Mrs Williams is especially talented at getting the very best out of students and always has a patient and supportive way of working with them. Through the English Clinic, she has helped countless Lower School students improve their reading and writing skills and more recently her coaching of GCSE students has been an invaluable part of their success. Mrs Williams brought her enormously creative ideas to co-curricular events, contributing to successful literary evenings; Arts Festival events; and drama performances. She also ran the hugely popular Lower School Debating Club, igniting a passion for debating in many students over the years and making this the most well attended Forder activity. Never one to draw attention to her achievements, everything she has done has been understated but genuine and done with the best interests of the children at heart. Mrs Williams will be greatly missed by the whole College community and we wish her all the best in her retirement.

## **Ms Maggie Callaghan**

It is my great pleasure to be writing this final *valette* to Ms Callaghan's great teaching career at St Dunstan's. She first arrived as an art teacher in 2000 having just parted like it was 1999. She made her mark immediately with students, guiding and fostering their love of art, and she was made a Teaching award in 2001 from the Crafts Council for her paper textile project. She had a talent for fostering artistic expression and always enjoyed sharing practice with and learning from her students – there are generations of students who took great benefit from her attention and who will recall her fondly.

In 2015 she rose to Head of Department and ensured the corner block of the middle corridor was abuzz with creativity. Ms Callaghan also created an unrivalled record of museum and gallery visiting that shamed other departments' trips' record by comparison, and she took students abroad to artistic hubs such as New York, Amsterdam, Paris and Madrid. The fashion show was instituted under her watch and has been a crowning achievement of the Festival each summer season since its inception.

Often seemingly idiosyncratic in its habits, Ms Callaghan's department regularly produced amongst the strongest results in the College, testament that there is more than one way to skin a rabbit. Well, draw one at any rate...like Dürer if possible. Tuesday evenings were enlivened by that ancient tradition of the study of the nude, and Ms Callaghan and the team often had to stand fierce guard over protecting the life models from non-artistic view. We have all enjoyed her happy energy, and she reminds us that the real business of education is simply to pass it on to the next generation so that they can be the next makers and thinkers.

Well done, Ms Callaghan, and we wish you the very best of retirements, painting and cycling to your heart's content.