



Robert Smyth Academy

Dear Families,

Appointment of Principal

I am delighted to share the news that **Miss Nicholson** has been appointed as the permanent Principal of Robert Smyth Academy, following a rigorous and wide-ranging assessment process this week.

The interview and assessment panel included Claire Maclean (CEO), Sam Roach (Director of Secondary Standards), Dan Cleary (Principal and Deputy Director of Secondary Standards), Kay Goddard (Chair of Governors), and His Honour Justice Murray Creed (Vice Chair of the MAT Board).

As part of the evaluation, Miss Nicholson also undertook a series of assessments involving our Senior Leadership Team, a staff panel including teaching and support colleagues, and members of our School Council, who represented the student body. She was tested across a broad range of leadership competencies through challenging scenarios and professional tasks.

After thorough consideration of her performance, the panel unanimously decided to appoint Miss Nicholson as the next Principal of Robert Smyth Academy.

This outcome reflects not only Miss Nicholson's deep understanding of our school but also her commitment to the highest standards of education, inclusion, and personal development for every young person in our care. Her appointment ensures continuity of our values and a strong, clear direction for the future.

A message from our Chair of Governors, Kay Goddard:

"Miss Nicholson impressed us all with her clarity of vision, her integrity, and her unwavering commitment to ensuring that every student thrives. The Governing Board is confident in her leadership and excited to see the school continue to go from strength to strength under her guidance. This is a superb appointment for Robert Smyth Academy, and we have secured a leader who will sustain the culture and ethos of this great school."

A personal note

Having been appointed Principal in June 2018, this is a fantastic moment for me as the outgoing Principal. I am absolutely delighted with Miss Nicholson's appointment. She brings stability, ambition, and a deep-rooted care for our students and community. Miss Nicholson has the values, the drive, and the professional expertise needed to lead Robert Smyth Academy into its next chapter. I have complete confidence that she will continue to raise standards and ensure that this is a school our families are proud to be part of.

This is a tremendous achievement, and we know you will join us in offering Miss Nicholson your warm congratulations. As she steps into this important leadership role, your continued support will be invaluable in helping her guide the academy forward with confidence, ambition, and a steadfast commitment to exceptional education. Headship is no easy task, and every community (and, by extension, society) needs good people willing to offer this level of service. In that spirit, I remind every family that you have a key role to play in supporting our new Principal, our staff team, and our students as she takes up her post.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school and our students, and for making this one of the very best schools to work and learn in. Have a wonderful Easter break when it arrives.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Cleary
Principal