

May 2024

Dear Parish Council

Firstly I would like to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Claydon High School. After a secondment at Thurston Community College, Ms Taylor has been successfully appointed as their substantive Principal. I know you will join me in thanking Maéve for the incredible job she has done at Claydon High School. She led the school through the most challenging times and has created a thriving, oversubscribed school. As for myself I have been the Deputy Headteacher at Claydon High School for the last five years, therefore I know the school and community well and look forward to driving us forwards.

Talking about moving forwards I can share that I have also been appointed as the Executive Headteacher of the Claydon Campus. What's the Claydon Campus I hear you ask? We had the remarkable opportunity of both the high school and primary school headships being up at the same time. Through discussions with Sarah Skinner (CEO Penrose Learning Trust) we decided it was about time we joined both schools. This means we will be one of the first Reception to GCSE mainstream schools in the county. Both myself and Mrs O'Connor are incredibly excited by this opportunity. The doors it opens for our students, staff and community are endless. I envisage the high school students wandering over to help the younger students read and the Year 4, 5 and 6 students coming up to do Science in the high school labs with high school staff; these are just two examples!

Initially there will not be much change but over time we will look to align how we work so that transition from Year 6 to Year 7 becomes seamless. If you would like me to come and discuss this with you please do let me know.

In terms of the high school itself we are still oversubscribed and attract over 300 applications each year.

We are always looking for local people or companies who can support the school with related activities or providing careers and work experience advice so please get in touch if you can offer some expertise, particularly around gardening! Likewise our students are keen to support community groups where they can so we welcome reciprocal requests.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Ismay
Headteacher