

Our Lady & St Thomas RCVA

Cumberland Terrace

Willington

Crook

Co Durham DL15 0PB

Dear All

It is with huge sadness and after a great deal of soul searching that I have submitted my resignation as both a Foundation Governor & Chair of the Governing Body of Our Lady & St Thomas RCVA School, or as we know it OLST. This is to take up an appointment as a Director of the Bishop Hogarth Trust, and the new role places me in a conflict of interest position between the two roles.

Since becoming a foundation governor, 23 years ago, and Chair for most of that time, I have to say how much I have enjoyed the role and recall many memorable, happy, and fun, occasions as well facing challenges and difficulties. It has been one of the most fulfilling times/and areas of my life, and I will always be grateful for the opportunity.

I remember vividly ,my first Governing body meeting , and going into the school hall again ,after many years , my “starting school” day flashed in front of me , at the age of 4 ,and the love and warmth of this special place came flooding back . I also recall the shock of sitting on those tiny chairs at aged 30 ...and them feeling quite different!

The school continued to be a special place for me , as I dropped my own 4 year old daughter ,India off on her first day, and watched her fall in love with OLST ,and she still calls those 7 years “the best days of her life”

I have been extremely fortunate to work alongside some really impressive people , from head teachers , parish priests, through to teaching staff , support staff , fellow governors, and of course parents , who have all been committed to encouraging all pupils to reach their full potential , within the school ethos of our children being “unique, talented and loved by God”

We have been lucky, over the years to have had the most talented, hardworking, selfless educators who collaboratively have taken the school from strength to strength, creating a safe and motivating, environment where all the children who come into school thrive.

The school remains an Outstanding school, for Ofsted purposes, and has an excellent reputation in the locality and Durham area, as well as having established strong links with international schools.

I am so proud of everything about OLST, and will always recall, how on every occasion without exception, visitors, delegates, other school representatives, even MP’s have commented on our wonderful children, and complimented their behaviour, interaction, and example.

Now , OLST is entering a new chapter as it becomes part of the Bishop Hogarth Trust ,and I am confident this will be prove to be a positive experience where we will continue to grow and provide an enriching community for all our young people.

I will miss you all so much, and how important I always felt when people called me Mrs Aisbitt!!!

I will never forget this unique OLST “family” and thank God for the privilege of being involved

THANK YOU Alison Aisbitt