16th October 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Re: The Bishop of Llandaff/Caldicot School Partnership

We write to provide you with an update on our partnership, which was established in June 2019. Initially, the purpose of the relationship was to accelerate improvements in standards, provision and leadership at Caldicot School, while maintaining the highest standards of performance in Llandaff.

The governing bodies of each school have been delighted with the progress made so far. A number of key changes at Caldicot, including a full restructure of the school’s leadership to provide clear lines of accountability; a revision to the curriculum organisation; and a number of excellent staffing appointments, has meant the school is now in a much stronger position than it was when the partnership was formed. The students and staff at Caldicot have responded exceptionally well to these changes and, as a result, we are confident that we have laid the foundations for the school to deliver ‘excellence’ in the future. At the same time, we are impressed that The Bishop of Llandaff continues to excel in all areas of its work.

Initially, our partnership was designed to run until August 2021. Governors from each school have established a partnership board, comprising of governors from each school, with the responsibility to review progress. Last summer, an independent review of the partnership was commissioned by the regional consortia, led by Steve Munby (Visiting Professor at UCL and former Chief Executive at National College of Leadership) and Rod Alcott (Management Consultant and Government Advisor). The review focused on the impact of leadership and whether the partnership provides ‘value for money’. The findings of the review have been shared with governors, regional consortia and local authority. It concludes

- “I can see no educational reason why the partnership should be ended at this stage and I can see several educational reasons why it might be continued and deepened” (Steve Munby); and
- “The inescapable conclusion therefore is that the Partnership Agreement provides excellent Value for Money. It would appear most likely that the Partnership Board would, at a minimum, recommend the option to ‘continue the partnership in its current form” (Rod Alcott).

Earlier this term, representatives from the partnership board made recommendations to each governing body to extend the partnership beyond 2021, which was unanimously agreed by both schools. Therefore, we are delighted to confirm that the partnership between The Bishop of Llandaff and Caldicot will continue for the foreseeable future. Both schools will continue to operate as separate institutions. However, collectively the schools will work together to secure excellence for our communities.

Mr Belli, our Executive Headteacher, will continue to provide strategic leadership to both schools and, as the named statutory ‘headteacher’, will retain overall accountability for both schools. He will continue to divide his time between both schools working with governors, school leaders and staff to deliver our joint aims. Similarly, on a day-to-day basis, the operational leadership of each school will continue to be overseen by the respective Head of School.

As shown through global health crisis and, as we prepare for significant education reform in Wales, through collaboration we will ensure that our schools will be at forefront of transformation. We are sure you will join us in wishing our staff at both schools well as we continue to meet these challenges.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Nurcombe
Chair of Board
On behalf of Governors: Caldicot School

Kathryn Bates
Vice-Chair of Board
On behalf of Governors: The Bishop of Llandaff CiW High School