

25 September 2023

Dear Staff, Parents and Community of St Paul's

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Bishop Administrator of the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane, to announce the new leadership team for St Paul's School, ready for the start of Term 4.

The announcement comes after the departure of former Principal, Dr Paul Browning. It has been a disruptive and unhappy couple of weeks and I hope that this news will help to build a more positive approach towards the future.

We are confident that the new leadership team will ensure as seamless a transition as possible.

During this interim period before a new Principal is appointed, we have engaged three highly regarded educators and administrators to identify the areas that need immediate support and attention.

As we prepare for the last term of 2023, we want to ensure the best possible outcomes for staff and students. The Year 12 cohort is obviously a priority. Their wellbeing will be our focus.

I am pleased to introduce to the school community:

Suzanne Bain will assume the position of Executive Principal. She will work with the St Paul's community to ensure that all students in the School are able to achieve as well as they possibly can through Term 4 and into 2024.

John O'Sullivan Williams, who will take on the position of Acting Principal, with a specific brief to oversee the daily running of the School, from teaching and learning to wellbeing.

Simon Gipson OAM will support and advise the leadership team and staff on strategy and culture as the School transitions into 2024.

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One of the main tasks for the team will be to develop a whole-of-school masterplan. The Realms of Thinking program will continue to be a part of the educational offering.

A lot of work needs to be done to support staff and students to have their very best experience in what is a great school.

I hope that you will welcome them to St Paul's and give them every support to achieve this important work.

Yours in Christ,



The Right Reverend Cam Venables
Bishop Administrator

Further details of the extensive experience of these educators is listed below:

Suzanne Bain, Executive Principal.

Suzanne Bain, MEd MCurricStudies BEd DipSpecEd FAICD FACEL (Q), Lay Canon, Cathedral Chapter, has experience working for peak bodies and associations at State and National level on behalf of non-government schools.

Suzanne has extensive knowledge, experience and skills in corporate governance as a board chair, company director, CEO, school principal and consultant. She brings 20 years successful strategic futures-oriented leadership as Principal in the establishment and development of Anglican Schools in Queensland; leadership and management of the restructure and strategic renewal of a group of Brisbane independent schools.

Among Suzanne's professional roles have been CEO EDUCANG LTD Colleges and Principal Forest Lake College 2005 – 2009; Principal St John's Anglican College 2010-2018; founding Deputy and Principal, Canon Hill Anglican College 1989-1999.

John O'Sullivan Williams, Acting Principal.

John O'Sullivan Williams, GAICD, MEd (Leadership & Management) BEd BA MACEL, is an experienced educator with over 23 years leading in Anglican Schools including West Moreton Anglican College, St Margaret's Anglican Girls School and Hillbrook Anglican School. In addition to his leadership experience, John is an Executive Board Member of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

John's passion lies in creating a supportive and nurturing environment where students and staff can thrive. In promoting student and staff wellbeing as the foundation for achievement and personal growth, he looks forward to making a positive impact by continuing to cultivate an inclusive and inspiring educational environment.

Simon Gipson, Educational Consultant.

Simon Gipson OAM, BA GradDipEng DipEd MEdMgt, has enjoyed an international career in education, encompassing roles as a teacher, leader, researcher, and consultant across Australia, South-East Asia, China, New Zealand, the UK, and the USA. Notably, he led St Michael's Grammar School in Melbourne as Head and CEO for 18 years.

From 2018-2019, Simon served as CEO of The Song Room, a national arts learning organisation, successfully steering it through a major strategic repositioning. Since 2020, he has been an independent consultant working with prominent independent schools, educational support associations, system authorities and educational research bodies.

With extensive governance experience in a range of not-for-profit organisations, Simon was also Chair of Trinity Grammar School Kew from 2020-2022. Simon has received significant awards for his work in educational leadership, including the Hedley Beare Educator of the Year (2009), the Linda Gratton Business Leader of the Year (2012), awarded by the Australian Human Resource Institute, and a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2020 for "services to secondary education."