



"You are God's
work of art"

ST PAUL'S ACADEMY

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Principal: Mr A Innocent BA (Hons)

17 December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you today, at the beginning of this festive season, with a profound sense of humility and gratitude as I introduce myself as your new Principal of St Paul's Academy. It is an honour to lead this vibrant, diverse, and first-class Catholic school. I recognise this time of the year for looking forward to celebrating Christmas and the hope and prosperity that a new year brings.

It cannot go unmissed that we all face significant national challenges. The severe impact of the cost of living crisis and economic pressures has created difficult times, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable in our society. For many families, Christmas 2025 will, understandably, be marked by a conscious effort to focus on the spiritual austerity of the Nativity rather than material consumption.

The economic pressures are prompting a shift that, ironically, aligns with the Church's call for simplicity. Our focus will be on the Spiritual, the Generosity of Time spent with loved ones and those in most need. Let us not forget those that do not have significant people in their lives poignantly at this time. The willingness of the generosity of time and service, finding God in our most impoverished moments is truly what faith and spirituality reflects.

A Journey of Connection and Shared Vision

I understand and recognise the changes to leadership can be fraught however, I hope all the school community can see it with a positive healthy outlook. The journey to becoming Principal of St. Paul's Academy has been a life-long association. For me, this appointment is a truly full-circle moment. My connection to this community is a lifelong one, starting as a student on our former site in Wickham Lane, Plumstead. I was then privileged to be part of the dedicated staff who made the historic move to our iconic educational building here in 2010. Even during recent years, I have maintained a close bond with this special community, always serving and championing its values.

Our Catholic Ethos and Vision for the Future

I firmly believe that St Paul's Academy is a fine Catholic institution that serves God through our young people. The authentic acts of service, mutual respect, and love that live through our students, staff, and wider community speak for themselves, both within Greenwich and beyond.

My leadership will be rooted in the belief that our school environment must reflect high standards of behaviour, respect, and love for all. I am unwavering in my commitment to an inclusive school that seeks to serve the many, not just the few—a philosophy that truly typifies my own life journey. Our shared aim is clear: to be a beacon of love, faith-filled worship, and exceptional achievement. We will ensure our young people have the very best opportunity to be flag-bearers for first-class Catholic education, locally and internationally.

No Limits to Success: Hope Through Education

There will be no limits placed on our students. They all deserve and need to follow a road that allows them to develop success and resilience, much like our patron, St Paul, on his transformative journey to Damascus. We will provide a distinctively Catholic curriculum where students display the Common Good and are equipped with a breadth of opportunity that allows them to aspire to the very best.



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As a school community, we look forward with hope and aspiration that the education we provide can bring optimism to all. It is through hard work, discipline, and collective support—from staff, families, and the wider community—that we will realise a brighter future.

In the true Catholic spirit, led by the enduring symbol of Jesus Christ's sacrifice for us, we believe in giving opportunities to all and fostering a shared journey towards excellence.

I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming weeks in the new year and serving this wonderful school community.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A. Innocent', written in a cursive style.

Mr A Innocent
Principal