

## **Integration Update #8 – 21 June 2018**

### **Only a brief update today ahead of several announcements next week**

With only one week to the end of Term, a number of matters are coming to a head, although unfortunately some are taking a little longer to settle before announcements can be made.

#### **Senior Staff Appointments**

The Panel that Mr Weeks has been chairing finalised their interviews last week and the senior appointments that they recommended were endorsed by the combined school Boards last Saturday. However, we continue to engage with one or two applicants who were unsuccessful. I ask for your understanding as we genuinely respect all those who took the time to apply for these positions. Mr Weeks has advised me that it was particularly challenging for the Panel due to the calibre of teachers who applied. They were very impressed with all those who applied, and believe that those who have been selected would provide outstanding leadership in any school environment. We look forward to announcing them as soon as possible, but I expect that this will not be possible until next week. I ask all staff members and parents to bear with us in this matter, and to be patient for a few more days.

As stated in previous Updates, further leadership appointments will be made early in Term 3 for Heads of Department and Heads of House or Year Groups along with other senior responsibility positions.

#### **Name of the new school**

As I am sure all Scots' parents are aware, as well as many All Saints' parents, an online petition to gauge support for the Trustees to keep the name of the earlier school name is circulating amongst the Scots' community.

The Trustees understand the reasons for this petition and, as consistently communicated to the integration working groups and parent forums, respect the appeals of all parents as we deeply appreciate their love of their school, and the grief caused by the merger of two schools with long and proud traditions into one new school.

With respect to the process for determining the name, the Trustees have sought to consult as widely as possible in order to be well informed before making their decision. Whilst the process of choosing the new name was not intended to be democratic, the preferences (all different) of all major stakeholders have been critically important to them.

Although I stated in Integration Update #5 on 31 May that no announcement of the new name will be made until after it is tabled at the General Assembly in mid-July, our current thinking is that it may help the Scots' and All Saints' communities to be advised of the name. The reason for this is quite simply that the combined School Boards and the Trustees are very impressed with and excited about the new school's crest and branding, which incorporates the emblems of the Lion of the tribe of Judah from Revelations 5 (the Scots' Lion); the open Bible; and the Cross of Christ, and which incorporates a new logo and the new name. We hope, and are confident, that all parents, students, staff, and former Old Boys and Old Girls will be as pleased as we are with not only the new design, but also the incorporation of the Lion emblem into the design of the new uniforms. I believe it is true to say that the feedback from those parents and other stakeholders who have provided us with great support during this process are very excited by what they have seen.

We will pick this up with the Trustees on Monday and I will advise you the outcome next week.

Kind regards,

Jeof Falls