

10 January 2012

Dear Parents

As I take up post as Rector at the start of 2012, I look forward to meeting students, staff, parents and Academicals and to joining the community at Kelvinside Academy.

Although I first visited KA some years ago when, as a teacher at another Scottish independent school, I took rugby teams to play at Balgray, my first real impression of the school was at interview when I was shown around by two senior students. They were the very finest ambassadors, being proud of their school and clearly enjoying not only their studies but also so many aspects of its wider extra-curricular life. What shone through most was their courtesy, quiet confidence and natural modesty. If they were representative of their peers, the parents and teachers of KA are succeeding in turning out young adults of impressive character and promise, which is a very large part of why we care for and educate the young.

My first impressions of the school have since been reinforced by the warm welcome I have received; I know that I am joining a friendly community with a distinctive ethos and above all a genuine commitment to its young people. Kelvinside Academy matches my belief that schools should be large enough to offer a balanced curriculum, with a range of extra-curricular activities and opportunities for personal development, but small enough for each child to be known and valued as an individual.

In addition to getting to know as many people as possible, I want to build on the strengths of Kelvinside Academy by enriching its academic and extra-curricular life, make improvements to those areas which require them, and to enhance its reputation in the West of Scotland and beyond. 'Ever to be the best' is a high bar to set, so everyone at KA must strive for the highest standards in and out of the classroom, beginning with the Rector!

If I may return to first impressions: reading the school magazine before my interview with the Board back in November, I was struck by the energy of the students and staff. The school magazine says more about a school than a prospectus because it reflects what a school actually does rather than what it says it does. On that basis, Kelvinside Academy is a very lively school indeed. Moreover, I know that this energy requires the active interest and support of parents. The partnership between school and home is very important and parents play a key role in supporting their children in school. Although the first point of contact is the Form Teacher, parents must also feel that they can see the Rector when they wish to discuss matters affecting their child's education. I welcome opportunities to meet parents, either informally or formally, so please be in touch if you wish to make an appointment to see me. In addition, there will be many opportunities over the course of the school term for me to meet parents at school functions and events, as well as on the touchline or at concerts.

I am looking forward to meeting you in 2012 and I send you my very best wishes for a happy and fulfilling year.

Yours sincerely

Robert Karling
Rector