

## Meet the Head article

Having just been appointed as Head my first day here was 4<sup>th</sup> January. It was not quite how I would have wished my second headship to begin with a day planning mass testing and then a third lockdown, but I still have an overwhelming sense of pride that I have been given the privilege of leading St Laurence School, however challenging the circumstance. I trained to teach over 20 years ago and the passion and drive I felt then, to inspire and care for young people, has not changed.

I have worked across a range of secondary schools in Berkshire, Surrey and Dorset, building experience in both academic and pastoral roles and took on my first headship back in 2017. It really is the most incredible job, to be charged with leading a school, and the responsibility with which it comes I take extremely seriously. St Laurence is a school with three clear principles – to care, to inspire and to succeed and its emphasis on growing the whole person, nurturing them as individuals as well as building their character, is extremely important to me.

I believe that those in education work in a 'hope' profession. We are tasked with engendering a sense of hope and optimism in young people; whether it be about learning a skill, understanding a concept or inspiring them to believe that things will improve. 2020 was a very challenging year for parents, students, for us all and the need for hope is paramount, as well as the need to maintain standards and it is important to me that we play our part, working in partnership with the community. 2021 brings with it further uncertainty but I have absolute faith in my team here and their fundamental belief in and commitment to every St Laurence child.

The school's academic success is enviable and the results speak for themselves but it was the confident, articulate students, proud of their school, who impressed me the most when I came to interview. When we are in better times, I offer a warm invitation to you to come and meet us during our open days or open evening. Details will be published on our website ([www.st-laurence.com](http://www.st-laurence.com)) at a later date.

Tim Farrer