

St David's School
Woodcote Valley Road, Purley, Surrey, CR8 3AL
office@stdavidsschool.co.uk
www.stdavidsschool.co.uk
0208 660 0723



Celebrating 100 years of success 1912 – 2012

PRESS RELEASE

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NEW ERA FOR PURLEY SCHOOL WITH A NEW HEAD & ITS CENTENARY YEAR

St David's School in Purley is expecting great things in 2012 with a new Headteacher at the helm and the start of its centenary year.

Miss Cressida Mardell took up the role of Acting Head following the departure of Mr Vincent Fox last summer and her appointment has now been made permanent.

She arrived at the school on Woodcote Valley Road in September 2007 as a Form 4 teacher and since then has risen quickly through the ranks becoming Director of Studies in 2008, Deputy Head in 2009 and Acting Head in June 2011.

Miss Mardell said: "I am really looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead and it is such a privilege to lead St David's into its centenary year and beyond. I have every confidence that the enthusiasm, dedication and professionalism of the experienced staff here will ensure St David's continues to flourish."

The Chair of Governors, Douglas Brown, said: "Her very positive performance in the challenging interview process left the Governing Body in no doubt that she was the right person for the role. Miss Mardell has an exciting vision for the future of St David's and the enthusiasm and drive to carry it through. Thus, we are going into our Centenary year with a new Head who, in our opinion, will serve our school exceptionally well in the next chapter of its history."

St David's School was founded in 1912 by two Welsh sisters, the Misses Talfourd-Jones. During the Second World War a second school was opened in a farmhouse called Upton Wold in Gloucestershire and some staff and children were evacuated there. The two schools ran for four years until the end of the war when Upton Wold closed. The school became a charitable trust in 1963.

Headteacher, Miss Mardell, said: "St David's has a very rich tapestry of history and the school has undergone many changes since its foundation in 1912. We are all looking forward to what this new era will bring."

St David's School is a leading co-educational day school for more than 150 children aged 3-11. It is well established as part of the local community and in its most recent inspection report, inspectors confirmed the school "provides a high quality education for its pupils".

Its next School at Work Open Morning for prospective families is on Thursday 23rd February 2012 from 9:30am until 12:30pm.

The school will also be holding its Centenary Celebration Week from Monday 20th February and its special St David's Day, a unique event in the calendar, is scheduled for Friday 2nd March.

Another special St David's Centenary event will take place at Fairfield Halls in Croydon on Tuesday 1st May 2012.

- Ends -

PHOTO: The new St David's Headteacher, Miss Cressida Mardell.

If you would like any further information, please contact the School Office on 0208 660 0723 or email office@stdavidsschool.co.uk.