

Dominican College, Portstewart announces new Principal

Dominican College, Portstewart is delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs Ruth Oliver as its new Principal.

Mrs Oliver, from Ballymena, studied at Stranmillis University College, Belfast gaining a Bachelor of Education Honours Degree before going on to complete a Masters in Educational Management at Queen's University.

Ruth began her teaching career in Lisnagarvey High School, Lisburn, as a teacher of Business Studies. Following this, she moved to Cambridge House Grammar School in Ballymena, where she taught for 22 years.

During her time at Cambridge House Grammar School, Ruth held a number of middle leadership posts and then went on to join the Senior Leadership team in 2016.

On appointment, Mrs Oliver stated that it was both an honour and privilege to accept the post and said that she was looking forward to keeping the Dominican spirit alive.

“Keeping faith and family at the core of our school is paramount, and by recognising and valuing the uniqueness of each of our young people we can help and support them to develop fully”.

Paying tribute to the work undertaken by previous Principal, Gerry Lynch, Mrs Oliver expressed her priority to build on the strong tradition of academic success and outstanding pastoral care, ensuring an accessible, inclusive and excellent education for all students whilst strengthening connections within the local community.

“I look forward to working alongside and leading the enthusiastic and dedicated team of staff in Dominican College, in fostering a contemporary, stimulating and engaging learning environment for all students. Working together in the heart of Portstewart, I believe we can achieve great things for each our young people whilst shining brightly in the community”.

Mr Lynch explained how he was both proud of and delighted for this Year’s GCSE students and he paid tribute to all the support and encouragement from the pupils’ parents and families which led to this year’s tremendous results.

Mr Lynch, taking his leave of the school after 40 years of dedicated service as a teacher, VP and Principal, described his delight, “To be going out on such a high of outstanding results last week at A level and again this week at GCSE. I am delighted by the outstanding results of our GCSE cohort and would encourage them to continue to apply themselves fully next year under the leadership and vision of our new Principal, Mrs Ruth Oliver.

I would like to take this opportunity to praise each and every one of our pupils for their commitment and dedication to their studies over the course of GCSE. I recognise the difficulties that pupils, parents and staff have faced over the past two years and celebrate these outstanding results as a school community. I am very proud of the way our students have overcome all the challenges to their learning and worked in partnership with our dedicated staff to achieve at such high levels.”

I want to welcome Mrs Ruth Oliver to Dominican College as our new Principal and wish her every success as she continues to lead staff and inspire pupils to achieve their full potential in a Dominican ethos and culture which celebrates the unique and special talents of each and every pupil.”

Mrs Oliver and Mr Lynch are pictured on our GCSE Results Day.