

Telephone: 021 4358012



Ursuline Secondary School
Blackrock
Cork

8th January 2019

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and with your families. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Principal of the Ursuline Secondary School from the start of this term and to wish you a Happy New Year.

You will be aware that Mrs Lucy Lambe retired as Principal of the school at the end of September and since that time Ms Paula Goggin has been Acting Principal. I am immensely grateful to both Mrs Lambe and Ms Goggin for their complete commitment to the school throughout the past term and indeed the support and kindness they have shown me since my appointment.

I am originally from Strabane, County Tyrone. After completing school, I left Ireland to study music at University in England. I subsequently spent my professional life teaching in boarding schools in England. The majority of this time was spent at Ampleforth College, North Yorkshire and latterly Stonyhurst College, Lancashire. However, home outside of term time has always very much been Ireland. I am married to Frances who is a former pupil of the school and as such over the years we have spent school holidays in either Cork, or Donegal from where my parents originate.

I am very much looking forward to working with you, your daughters and indeed the whole Ursuline community in the years ahead. The Ursuline Secondary School in Blackrock is an excellent school with a long history of educating girls. We are the first Ursuline school in Ireland and have been teaching girls as far back as 1771. The Ursuline nuns ensured that the philosophy and ethos set out by St Angela was always strong and remained the guiding principles of the school from the start through to the present day. This has meant that there is a real sense of community at the Ursulines and indeed I have found everyone I have met to be extremely welcoming, kind and to have an innate desire to support one another. This ethos, coupled with small class sizes which allows staff to get to know your daughters as individuals, excellent teaching and high levels of pastoral support means that we are in the fortunate position of being part of a very special school community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sr. Mary McDaid, Dónal Cronin and all of the members of the School Board of Management for their patience and support during my transition to the Ursulines. I feel very privileged to be a part of the Ursuline family in Blackrock and feel that this is an exciting time to be involved with the school's future.

I look forward to seeing you around school during the term ahead. If you see me, please do introduce yourself. Equally, should you ever want to meet to discuss your daughter's progress, please do not hesitate to make contact with me.

With warm wishes and best of luck for 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick McBeth." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a period at the end.

Patrick McBeth
Principal