

25th January 2012

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to be undertaking a temporary placement at Queen Mary's as Chaplain and very much appreciate the warm welcome I have received from pupils, staff and parents.

As a number of pupils have expressed interest in Confirmation, I will shortly be writing to the Bishop of Whitby and hope to set a date for the service soon. In the meantime, I intend to run a confirmation course this term **starting in February during the Tuesday lunchtimes**. If your daughter would like to be confirmed within the Church of England, please ask them to speak to me and return the parental consent form by 31st January.

WHAT DOES CONFIRMATION INVOLVE AND WHAT IF MY DAUGHTER IS NOT SURE?

The Confirmation service involves a solemn commitment to serving Jesus Christ through a life of discipleship and worship. It is a public confession of faith that builds upon the vows often made by others on our behalf at infant baptism and enables people to make those decisions for them and to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit. However, the course is a good way of exploring the Christian faith further, so if your child is unsure whether they want to make that commitment, they are still welcome to attend.

WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS NOT BEEN BAPTIZED?

Often, young people who wish to be confirmed were baptized as infants but when that is not the case, it is possible to be baptized and confirmed during the same service, or I can baptize someone as part of their preparation.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER ALTERNATIVES?

The Church of England understands faith to be a journey with many different stages. It may be that your child does not feel ready to be confirmed, but would like to receive the Eucharist. This is understood by the Church of England which also offers Reception to Communion. This enables younger children who were baptized as infants (usually age 7+) to participate more fully in the worship of the church by receiving bread and wine during Eucharistic services. It also involves a period of preparation to give children an opportunity to understand the meaning of the service more fully.

Information can be found on the Church of England website:

<http://www.churchofengland.org/weddings-baptisms-funerals/baptism-confirmation/confirmation/frequently-asked-questions.aspx>

More details will be sent later to those who express an interest. In the meantime, I am available in school on Tuesdays and Thursdays and can be contacted by email: l.southern@queenmarys.org if you wish to discuss it further.

Every blessing,

Rev'd Lindsay Southern,
School Chaplain
Queen Mary's School