

so it has been with generations of Priorians before you - Fr Bernard, Fr George and Fr Kevin to name but a few. In the foreseeable future I will retire and a new Head will be appointed who will have his/her own fresh ideas for the further development of the School. These will reach fruition because he/she will enjoy the support and care that comes from the monks. They are the crucial links in the chain. There is no excuse for abuse of anyone and particularly children. There have been failures here in the past and quite rightly those involved have been or are being exposed and punished. The School continues to cooperate with all the relevant authorities. I absolutely refute that anyone associated with St Benedict's School has misled the Inspectors or protected offenders - such

allegations are at best misguided and at worst deliberately malicious. Recent media and blog coverage seem hell-bent on trying to discredit the School and, at the same time, destroy the excellent relationship between School and Monastery. Is this part of an anti-Catholic movement linked to the papal visit? I do not know, but it feels very much as if we are being targeted.

What matters to parents most is that their sons and daughters are safe and happy. I promise I will continue to do everything possible to ensure this is the case and I know that, in this assertion, I speak for all my colleagues.

The last five months has been the most demanding in my career but the support and loyalty of my family and my