Westminster College

## MAGINE

Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people's everlasting light;
Jesu,
Redeemer, save us all,
And hear Thy servants when they call.

7th Century Latin hymn

## MAGINE

... a regular reflection from me as I journey with you in this adventure that is our life together at Westminster.

NEIL

## **SEEN & UNSEEN**

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible...

One of the persistent powers of liturgy is the way in which phrases, often repeated over a lifetime, can hide in their depths power to describe newness and wonders. The same goes for scripture, poetry, music, pictures, cinema, cooking and the walk to the shops. The oh so familiar that it almost becomes invisible suddenly ambushes us. It has just happened for me with these opening lines of the Nicene Creed.

I will have said them very many times. I know their flow and rhythm. I suspect I get carried along by them, dashing towards "believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic church" without noticing some of the landscape along the way. This time I barely made it beyond "visible and invisible."

What a tremendous description of Advent's purpose and of Christian life. In this time of so much that illustrates human power here is a map, a compass reading, that points to the more profound truth. Politics will continue to unfold its dances of semi-truth, vested interest, high ideals and fallible people. Brexit will skid its way onwards to something. Global crises of climate and poverty, of war and debt, will hang heavy over another year's passing. Personal pain and sadness will stay close.



Life's risks and fragilities will be inescapable.

But that isn't the core of reality. The core, the unalterable heart, the essence, is that God is the maker of all of what we can see and what we cannot see. So often it is the seen and known that draws my gaze and controls my thinking. But, far deeper and greater, is the truth. And that truth sets us free to face the other truths with boundless hope. Glory to God!

## Teaching Staff—all change

Thank you to everyone who helped in the various processes through which we've been making appointments to the teaching staff team. That team has undergone the greatest change in living memory over the past few years. We will want to ensure that we fully celebrate

the gifts that Yak-hwee has shared with us as her three years draws to a close in the summer of 2018 and we wish her well. We look forward to announcing very soon the outcome of our New Testament tutor interviews. We have welcomed Robert, who I'm delighted to

say has just been appointed by Governors as Vice Principal too. Peter's arrival marks the first time since the 1960s that we've had six in Senatus. With Sam and Alison this makes for a tremendous and talented teaching team. Praise God indeed!