



St Aidan's Catholic Academy

'We believe that God has created each person to celebrate life to the full'



18th July 2018

Dear Parent/Carer/Colleague/Headteacher/Principal (City of Sunderland),

MAT (multi-academy trust development)

Stage 1

The Directors of St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy and St. Aidan's Catholic Academy recently voted in support of St. Aidan's joining 'Our Lady of Mercy Education Trust' within the next twelve months. The trust was created January 2018 when St. Anthony's transferred trusteeship to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. This is fully in line with Diocesan policy and we also have approval, and support, for this development from the Regional Schools Commissioner.

St. Anthony's and St. Aidan's will retain their own unique identity. The two separate schools will continue to provide excellent opportunities and further enhance the quality of education provided by both schools by working even more closely together at strategic level.

Stage 2

We are also inviting expressions interest from primary schools, within Monkwearmouth Catholic Partnership, and recently shared an Information Evening for Head Teachers, Governors, the Dean and the Diocesan Director of Education and Deputy Director for all eleven schools within the Partnership (see appendix 2).

The further development of the Trust will provide the opportunity for high quality education for catholic families, and all the communities we serve, from early years' provision up to and including post-16 provision. At a time of increasing financial pressures for individual schools it will also help us to preserve, and develop, catholic education within Sunderland and within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle.

Joining the Trust will also provide opportunities for on-going professional development and career progression for staff as well as support for leadership and governance. Within St. Anthony's and St. Aidan's we have already a well-established tradition of working closely together to provide over 35 Advanced level subjects for post-16 students. We also meet regularly with primary Headteacher colleagues, the Dean and local clergy.

Within Monkwearmouth Catholic Partnership we work annually with over forty schools locally, nationally and internationally through two Teaching Schools (one based at St. Cuthbert's, Grindon and one based at St. Anthony's). We also have two National Leaders of Education and over twenty Specialist Leaders of Education working within Monkwearmouth Catholic Partnership.

If primary schools decide to join the trust, at a later date, then a further consultation stage will occur.

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Headteacher Mr Kevin Shepherd | **Chair of Governors** Dr C Emmerson



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Consultation period (Stage 1 – see above)

The formal consultation will take place from Friday 20th July 2018 until noon on Friday 21st September 2018.

How do I respond to the consultation?

We value your opinion and would welcome responses to contactus@staidanscatholicacademy.co.uk entitled, "Proposed MAT development".

Yours sincerely,

Mr K Shepherd

Mrs M Shepherd

Dr C Emmerson

Mrs A Shanks

Headteacher

Chair of Directors