

Dear Parent/Carer,

Since I last wrote to you in April we have been very busy putting into place everything required to formally launch the new St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi-Academy Trust on 1st September 2018. As you may recall, as part of the wider Diocesan plan to secure Catholic education for the future, we are bringing together 25 schools from Derby City, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Stockport and Nottinghamshire (of which 20 are primary and 5 are secondary).

Working together with Headteachers and Chairs of governors we have created a vision for our Trust and also a strategic plan. This strategic plan outlines the direction we are taking over the next three years. Our vision brings us together as one community, where we need to broaden our thinking from 'my' one academy to 'our' many academies. Working together, each academy will benefit educationally from sharing the expertise we have internally throughout the Trust, as well as from the external services procured and provided centrally. Our ambition is that every academy will be both a receiver and a giver of support.

By strengthening the links between secondary and primary phases, the Catholic education we provide will constantly improve as we strive to do our best for the pupils and families we serve. Our aspiration is that what is seen today as pockets of best practice will in future come to be known as common practice across all our academies.

Our Trust will be a dynamic entity, which will grow and adapt to enhance the lives of those who are working and learning within it, responding to the needs of our community and supported by the Catholic principles upon which our academies are founded.

We have 5 Key Priority areas over these next 3 years;

Mission and Ethos, Teaching, Learning and Assessment, Academy Improvement, Leadership and Governance and Integrated and effective Business support Service. (Further details of the plan can be found on the Trust website)

I remain committed and am ambitious for your children's future, ensuring that we have the best schools and that they are places where we develop young minds; not just academically but also growth of character and the development of the whole person.

We have been given a wonderful opportunity to shape the future of Catholic education for around 8,000 young people who attend our schools across the Trust and I am very much looking forward to getting to know your schools and communities over the coming weeks, months and years.

Yours sincerely,

Sean McClafferty

CEO St Ralph Sherwin Trust