



‘Start doing what is necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible’

4th May 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Assisi Catholic Trust

We are delighted to inform you that in line with current Diocesan Policy, following the issuing of the Academy Orders earlier this year to nine schools in the South East Essex Deanery, the **Assisi Catholic Trust** has been formed. Named after St. Francis of Assisi we hope this great saint will provide inspiration for us all to have courage as we move forward as a Christian community.

The aim of our Trust is to enable the children in our care to place Christ and the teaching of the Catholic Church at the centre of their lives. The Trust has, at the centre of its mission and purpose, the belief that every child has a right to educational excellence and we will work tirelessly to ensure this happens.

The schools in our Multi Academy Trust as at May 2018 are:

- Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School
- Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School
- St Thomas More High School

Our timeline in continuing through the academy conversion process throughout the rest of this academic year, will be to carry out formal consultations with all key stakeholders for the remaining schools who applied earlier this year to convert. These schools are:

- Holy Family Catholic Primary School
- Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School
- St George’s Catholic Primary School
- St Helen’s Catholic Primary School
- St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School
- St Teresa’s Catholic Primary School

We hope that this transition to multi-academy trust status will be seamless and that on a day to day basis each school should continue to operate as before. Each school will retain its own Governing Body that will continue to make decisions for individual schools. Being part of the family of schools and the Multi Academy Trust will, however, bring significant benefits, for example

- We will work together closely and support each other to strengthen our Catholic schools.
- We will work together to train, develop and retain teachers, support staff and leaders;
- There will be opportunities for staff in all our schools to undertake joint training and share their expertise across schools;
- We will have the ability to achieve economies of scale by being part of a larger buying group;
- We will be able to streamline services and provide them centrally and more cost effectively;
- We will have the flexibility to buy in services from our own chosen providers;
- We will be able to share resources across all our schools;

This is an important time for our Catholic schools and we have worked closely with each school in planning for the formation of this Trust. We will continue to work together to serve all the children in the Assisi Catholic Trust and we are enthusiastic about our future together.

You can find more information on our website www.assiscatholictrust.com

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with us if you have any queries or concerns at office@assiscatholictrust.com.

Yours sincerely,



Gemma Ackred
MAT CAO



Frank McEvoy
Chair of Board of Trustees