



St Joseph's Primary School

a Catholic Voluntary Academy

Part of De La Salle Academy Trust

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Diocese of **Hallam** *Schools Together*

26th April 2021

Dear Parents

We are writing to let you know that we are working together in our families of schools in the Diocese of Hallam to form two new Catholic Multi Academy Trusts (CMATs) where all 47 diocesan schools will be equal partners in one of the new CMATs.

Together we have a shared vision for the future of Catholic Education in the Diocese which Bishop Ralph set out in a letter to all diocesan schools earlier in the year. In his letter the Bishop described the crucial role schools have in announcing the Gospel to the world and the importance of ensuring that Catholic education is secured, protected and developed further for the benefit of future generations of children.

The aim is to have the CMATs open early in Spring 2022 with schools joining in phases throughout 2022. I attach the lists of schools in each CMAT. The CMATs are not yet named. However we will very shortly be involving our staff, children and governors in selecting a name and we will let you know as soon as this has been decided.

The detailed planning about how the CMATs will be structured and organised and the timing for each phase is evolving based on best practice and tailored to meet the needs of Hallam schools. However, we do know that the Diocese is committed to ensuring that every school will retain its individuality, its ethos and character so that for our children and staff there will be no interruption to learning and no changes to the uniform or school day when we join the CMAT.

Information available so far, including the Bishop's letter to Schools, is posted on the Diocese of Hallam website under the Schools section and can be accessed with this link:

<https://hallam-diocese.com/schools-home/mat-development/>

Please visit the webpage regularly for updates and FAQs about this exciting development. When we have more detail we will invite you to respond to the proposals as part of our wider engagement. Any questions not already addressed in the FAQs can be raised at that point.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs D McFarlane
Head Teacher

Rev Mr S Hegarty
Chair of Governors

