

1st September 2021

Dear Parents,

For those of you I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting, my name is Gaspare Nicolini and I am writing in the capacity of acting Board Chair of the Catholic Academy Trust your Headteacher and Chair of Governors have been communicating about previously.

I am writing to you directly with the good news that your school is now a founding member of a new Catholic Academy Trust – the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust – and that the Trust formally and legally came into existence today.

I am also delighted to tell you that all eight schools who consulted have joined and formed the Trust together as one group. As an eight-school Trust, our family is of a significant size and this is a pivotal moment in the development of Catholic Education in our Diocese and across our Deanery. The eight schools are:

- St. Joseph's, Waltham Cross
- St. Cross, Hoddesdon
- St. Augustine's, Hoddesdon
- Sacred Heart, Ware
- St. Joseph's, Hertford
- St. Thomas of Canterbury, Puckeridge
- St. Joseph's, Bishop's Stortford
- St. Mary's, Bishop's Stortford

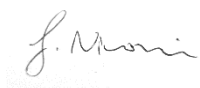
A core part of the vision for our Trust is that each school will retain its own unique identity and ethos. To co-ordinate and lead the operations of the new Trust, the Diocese have appointed Mr Andrew Celano as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He will now work closely with your Headteacher and all Headteachers across the Trust to help support the enhancement and preservation of Catholic education in all our communities. In the early years as we establish the Trust, Mr Celano will work almost full time on his role as CEO.

I have asked Mr Celano to write to you all tomorrow to further explain the work of the trust, as well as refer to and explain our vision, values, governance structure, and indicate our intentions for the first year or so of the Trust.

What I would like to say about our vision at this stage is that we have very carefully considered St. Francis as our patron saint for many good reasons. Our trust logo shows an olive branch – a symbol of peace – St. Francis was a peacemaker. He was also someone who most certainly inspired the creation of caring communities, and given the work our Trust sets out to achieve, we felt that was an excellent foundation and starting point for our work together in the years to come.

I look forward to being in touch again in future, and I wish you a successful and peaceful school year ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Gaspare Nicolini

Acting Chair and Foundation Director of the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust



St Joseph's
Catholic Primary



Sacred Heart
Catholic Primary School



St Augustine's
Catholic Primary School



St Joseph's
Catholic Primary School



St Thomas of Canterbury
Catholic Primary School



St Joseph's
Catholic Primary School



St Mary's
Catholic School



St Cross
Catholic Primary School