



# St. Paulinus Catholic Primary School



Inspiring all to live, learn and love in the light of Jesus.

(cf John 8:12)

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Parents/ carers/ guardians,

## **RE: Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Multi-Academy Trust (BPSCMAT)**

### **A Diocesan Family of Schools**

Following a meeting held with Diocesan officers yesterday I wanted to write to let you know about the plans for our school to join the Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, along with our family of Catholic Schools in Calderdale and Kirklees. We already work quite closely together but being part of the Trust will benefit all our schools in creating stronger collaborative partnerships with one another as one family. It will ensure strategic and structural solidarity, securing Catholic education for your children in the Diocese of Leeds for the future and also within our geographical area. We are hopeful we will be able to convert next year, aiming for September 2020.

This letter, along with the attach FAQs and other information, is intended to give you a good overview of what it means for our school and our children.

### **Where it all began:**

In October 2011 the Diocese of Leeds published its guidance to governors "Building the Future: Considering Multi-Academy trusts". The document presented a very clear description of how schools could and should convert to academy status. It proposed a framework of how five multi academy trusts could be structured to offer parents a provision of Catholic education from 3-19 years. Since then, and over the course of the past few years, many Catholic Primary and Secondary schools have joined their assigned multi academy trust.

Following on from this document, last year, Bishop Marcus instructed all of the schools in the Leeds diocese to begin the process of joining their local multi academy trust within their defined geographical area. The Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Multi-Academy Trust (BPSCMAT) is our local trust and includes all the Catholic schools in Kirklees and Calderdale.

When the BPSCMAT was initially formed three of our schools converted to academy status including:-

- Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy, Sowerby Bridge
- St Malachy's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Halifax
- St. John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy, Dewsbury

Recently, the governors of all of the remaining 13 schools, including ours, have adopted a resolution to join the BPSCMAT. This will mean that there will be 16 schools in total in our CMAT (Catholic multi academy trust) including 2 high schools. This letter, or similar, has been sent out to all parents of the remaining 13 schools today.

### **A few thoughts:**

I am sure that there will be many questions that immediately pop into your head such as: what will change? Or how will it affect my child? I want to assure you that, as children and parents, your journey with us will continue in the way it always has. I will still be the Headteacher; the staff will remain the same (unless they are advancing their career or we have maternity leaves etc which are part of normal year to year changes); the uniform will stay the same and we will still be called St Paulinus. The academy name will be on the letterhead and school sign and visible in other places such as our website, this is to show which family of schools we are part of.

You may have seen the news or TV shows about academies gone wrong, you may have experienced (or know someone who has) conversion to academy before. In fact, I have myself heard some negative things about academies. But let me assure you - our family of schools led by the trust Board and Diocese share a vision of unity NOT uniformity. We believe that each school is special in it's own right and there are no intentions to make every school the same. Another important point considering recent news stories about finances is that the Academy Trust will be a company by law but it is NOT a business. It's purpose will be to serve the growth of our schools and our Mission. The conversion to be part of the Trust is a natural next step for us to formalise the work we already do within our Catholic family of schools and allow us to access group financial savings which will mean more money can be spent on resources for the children. We will also continue to work with our local non- Catholic schools as we always have.

### **What next?**

Firstly, I have included a range of frequently asked questions with this letter. This should answer most of your queries.

The next stage of the process is the consultation with all stakeholders (that's parents, children and staff). Just as we have had an opportunity to ask questions, this too is an opportunity for everyone and anyone to ask any questions they want before the conversion date. As a result of us starting the process of conversion all of our schools will be holding an information event/evening for parents, at their own school, during the week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> October. At the meeting the governors and myself will inform you of the pathway and process to becoming an academy and answer any questions which you may have.

Ahead of the meeting we thank you for your continuing support as we move forward together on this new journey and look forward to seeing you in school on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm for a short presentation and an opportunity to ask any questions.

Yours sincerely,

The Headteacher and Governors of St. Paulinus School

*'An outstanding school, which is deeply committed to the Catholic mission... this school inspires all within this faith community to live life to the full.'* Ofsted 2017

Tel: (01924) 488282

E-mail: [office@stpaulinus.org](mailto:office@stpaulinus.org)

Website: [www.stpaulinuscps.org.uk](http://www.stpaulinuscps.org.uk)