



RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA

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Dear Parents, Staff and Governors

I am delighted that the St John the Baptist Catholic Multi Academy Trust (CMAT) has developed so well. We have now received official approval from DfE to proceed, and we are hoping that by 1st April, our three Norwich schools, Notre Dame High School, St Francis, and St Augustine's, along with St Mary and St Peter (Gorleston) will all be members of the CMAT. By 1st May, St Mary's (Lowestoft), St Edmund's (Bungay) and St Benet's (Beccles) will be joining them. This is our first CMAT within the Diocese and others are planned as part of the strategy of the Diocese to safeguard and strengthen Catholic education.

A CMAT is a single trust that is responsible for a number of academies. The governance of the CMAT consists of Members, Directors and Local Governing Bodies.

Members: The Members are akin to the shareholders of a company. Within our CMAT, the Members are myself, Monsignor Tony Rogers (Trustee of the Diocese), Fred Corbett (Schools' Commission), Julie O'Connor (Director of Schools) and the Chair of the CMAT Directors. We will safeguard the Catholic ethos of the CMAT and hold the Directors to account.

Directors: The Directors are responsible for the strategic direction of the Trust. They hold each headteacher and school to account and they ensure financial probity, along with compliance with Charity Law requirements. I have appointed a Board of Directors from a variety of business and education backgrounds. Some of them have previously been governors at schools within the CMAT; all of them bring much expertise and knowledge. The Directors are Edward Acton (Chair), Glen Batchelor, Jodie Gilbert-Barnham, Peter Godfrey, Ruth Hollis, Fr David Paul, Flavio Vettese and three of our headteachers, Brian Conway, Vicki Long and Kim Payne.

Local Governing Bodies: Each school within the Trust will still have a Local Governing Body. This is because Directors can delegate governance functions to the local level and the local governing body can concentrate on its individual school issues and teaching and learning.

The St John the Baptist CMAT is in the process of establishing a website. Please look out for it as it will contain much more information about the CMAT as it develops.

I am very grateful to the Directors who have offered their commitment and service to this exciting venture and to all our Heads, Staff and Governors who have worked so hard to bring the model to fruition in our Diocese. I am very proud of all our Catholic schools; it is important that we are at the forefront of educational developments and that we always endeavour to strive for the very best outcomes for our children and young people. You are assured of my prayers.

With all good wishes and an assurance of my prayers,

Yours devotedly

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The Right Reverend Alan S Hopes
Bishop of East Anglia