

Diocese of Hallam - Schools Together

Newsletter 15th July 2021

Hallam Schools Together



Development of
Catholic Multi Academy Trusts

“By working together, we can create something bigger and better than we could do separately”

Hallam Headteachers—June 2021

Thank you for your feedback, comments, suggestions and words of encouragement about the project and for your due diligence responses —your support throughout is very much appreciated!

The final few weeks of this term have seen ...

1. Two briefing sessions for Chairs and Heads (30th June/1st July) take place - both were well-attended and prompted the submission of detailed feedback forms from Chairs and Heads. We are collating the responses from the forms and Directors will be reviewing these and using them to shape the work for the Autumn Term. If you missed the events the slide presentation has been posted on the Hallam Diocese website.
2. Your due diligence returns coming in - we will be reviewing and collating these over the summer. The information you provide is hugely valuable in helping to build an accurate picture of the CMATs and of the position of individual schools in preparation for the submission to the RSC Headteacher Board later in September. Thank you for sharing with us.
3. Trustees and Directors considering a range of options for CEO recruitment. We will let you know as soon as a firm plan is in place.
4. The appointment of the first Directors to St Clare and St Francis CMATs. Helen and Kev will be in touch early in the Autumn Term and in the meantime they have sent this joint message:

Dear all

We wanted to follow up with you following the positive briefing sessions we had with Chairs and Heads of our respective CMATs recently.

It was good to join you as Directors and share in the updates to progress towards the establishment of the St Clare and St Francis of Assisi Catholic Multi Academy Trusts and the ongoing work to help inform how these are set up and will operate.

As Directors, we are grateful to all those that have worked so hard to get us to this point, but we recognise the responsibility we now have to make decisions which will shape the way our CMATs will develop. We are committed to developing a shared vision and set of values across two highly effective CMATs. St Clare and St Francis of Assisi Catholic Multi Academy Trusts will be sister and brother to one another, in the image of our patrons. We will not compete and we will always support one another. Where possible we will have Diocese wide policies and ways of working to help foster joint working. But we will also look to be distinctive - mirroring our different communities and parishes.

The Directors have had a number of discussions to help steer the programme over the summer and into the early part of next term. Working with the MAT development group and Schools Department we want to get a better handle on progress and the risks at school level as well as those at programme level. This will help us focus our efforts where they will make the most difference.

In the autumn term, we want to work with our schools to agree an approach to governance that is in keeping with the way we work in Hallam. We want to have strong local governance, supporting Chairs of Governors, Headteachers and staff to continue to make our schools living communities filled with the Gospel spirit of freedom and love and inspiring places to learn and work. We want to encourage continued support between schools at every level of the Diocese. We also want to look for ways that by working at a large scale - across a CMAT or across the Diocese - we can support all schools to flourish in what will continue to be uncertain times.

We hope you will support us on the next part of this journey; through your prayers for the success of our CMATs, through sharing your views and advice with us as we develop the vision and ways of working, and by continuing to lead your schools as you have done through these most difficult of times.

We both hope that you enjoy a well-deserved break over the summer holidays and look forward to working with you in the new school year.

Kev Smith

Helen McLaughlin

Chair, St Clare Catholic MAT

Chair, St Francis Catholic MAT

Previous newsletters and key documents are available on the Diocese of Hallam website under the Schools page (MAT Project tab)

REMINDERS - BY THE END OF TERM PLEASE!

Budget returns	—>	Phil Curtis
Land and Buildings	—>	Neil Weightman
Contracts Registers	—>	Cecilia Emery
Original Conversion documents	—>	Cecilia Emery
Signed Letters of Intent	—>	Cecilia Emery

PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR STAFF AND GOVERNORS

The next newsletter will be sent out on Monday 6th September 2021

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For further information about the work or progress of the themed groups please contact:

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**TWO HIGHLY EFFECTIVE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUSTS
WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP TO ACHIEVE ONE
VISION**