

# Diocese of Hallam - Schools Together

## Newsletter - 10th September 2021

Hallam Schools Together



Development of  
Catholic Multi Academy Trusts

**“Start by doing what's necessary;  
then do what's possible;  
and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”**

*St Francis of Assisi*

**Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year!**

### Success for HSPAT!

**We are delighted to report that the Financial Notice to Improve (FNti) has been lifted from HSPAT as of 30th July 2021. In a letter to Sean McClafferty, Chair of HSPAT, a senior official from ESFA wrote:**

*"We have closely monitored the trust's progress against the conditions set out in the FNti .... I am satisfied that the FNti conditions have been met. As a result the FNti will be lifted. I wanted to personally acknowledge the pace at which the trust has been able to meet the conditions of the FNti..... I would like to thank you, Chris Manze and Leanne Noone, for your contributions to ensuring the trust has reached this position."*

To have an FNti lifted in such a short space of time is very rare and reflects the commitment and hard work of everyone at HSPAT - Congratulations to all involved!

### Over the summer break we have been moving ahead with...

1. The incorporation of St Francis and St Clare CMATs. Both Companies are now registered at Companies House with their Directors and Members. The Company documents are available either by searching the CMAT names at Companies House or by visiting the governance page on the Hallam website.
2. Preparations for the RSC Headteacher Board - now renamed as the RSC Advisory Board. We have agreed to put the formal submissions for the two CMATs to the November Advisory Board to give ample time to pull together the information required. Please see the reminders and requests below where we're asking for your support.
3. Recruitment for CEOs. As you will see from the Director's update below, following thorough deliberation by MAT Steering Group and CMAT Boards, supported by Schools Department, it has been agreed that we will move to appoint an Interim CEO for each CMAT with additional resource being provided to set up the business and compliance areas of the CMATs. Timescales are:

**15<sup>th</sup> September**                      **Application process goes live.** Interested parties will find more information about the interim CEO posts and the recruitment process via the dedicated Satis microsite (the link will be emailed to all Hallam Diocese schools on the day)

**27<sup>th</sup> September**                      **Optional evening information session** for any interested parties to meet with the CMAT Boards and the Hallam Schools Department to find out more about the roles. Time and venue for the event to be arranged

**8<sup>th</sup> October**                              **Closing date** for applications

**15<sup>th</sup> October**                              **Interviews**

4. Recruitment of Chief Finance Officers: The recruitment timescale has been brought forward to increase capacity during the set-up and onboarding of schools. Full details can be found at <https://joinhallammats.co.uk/>
5. Appointment of additional Directors. Directors at St Clare are joined by Fr Chris Posluszny and Mgr John Ryan joins the Board of St Francis.

### Easing Workloads

We are exploring ways to gather data direct from school systems to reduce burdens on your teams and speed up our data collection. Chris Manze is looking into this for the two CMATs so expect a call from Chris over the next couple of week to explain....

### DIRECTORS' UPDATE

Welcome back to what is still not normal life in schools but hopefully a more normal year.

Over the summer we have continued to work with the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) to agree a way forward for our two Catholic MATs. Our first attempt at recruiting Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) for the CMATs was not successful and so, after discussion with the Schools Department and the Diocesan Trustees, we developed a proposal to bring forward the appointment of the permanent Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) and look to recruit interim CEOs this half term. The RSC has supported this plan and so we are now looking forward to completing the appointment of our two CFOs by the end of September and our interim CEOs by the half term holiday.

The CMATs have now been incorporated and our first Board meetings are planned for the coming weeks. As one of our first actions, we will be meeting with Head Teachers to update on progress and to begin the process of forming the new family of schools for each CMAT. Heads of St Clare CMAT will meet on 20<sup>th</sup> September at 4.30pm and Heads of St Francis CMAT will meet on 21<sup>st</sup> September at 4.30pm. Both meetings will be on Zoom - invitations to follow. We want these "Heads' Forums" to become a central part of the working as we develop a distinctive character for each CMAT.

We will also be holding an information event on 27<sup>th</sup> September for those looking to discern if they might want to offer themselves as a candidate for the interim CEO roles. More information will be shared closer to the date but the evening will include a presentation from a current CMAT CEO and time to talk to both of us and the Schools Department about the role and the person specification.

Key to the next stage of our development is a submission to the RSC Advisory Board (formerly the Head Teachers Board) with a decision date in November. We want to share our progress with the Advisory Board at that stage both in terms of preparing for the inclusion of schools in the CMAT, and with closer working between all schools within the CMAT and across the Diocese. As part of this we are now meeting regularly with the Schools Department and will be looking for opportunities to meet with Governing Bodies and Staff groups also. **We have asked for email addresses for Chairs of Governors to be shared with us so that we can make contact. Your addresses will be shared by 15th September— we know that many of you use personal email addresses so PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU DO NOT WISH YOUR EMAIL TO BE SHARED WITH US.**

Building our CMATs is a huge task and all of the Directors are volunteers. Please keep us in your prayers.

Helen McLaughlin - St Francis CMAT

Kev Smith - St Clare CMAT

### REMINDERS and REQUESTS

(will also be sent by email to Heads)

*August Payroll Reports to Phil Curtis please by email as soon as possible (next week!)*

*Land and Property Information - we will contact individual schools by email where there are gaps in information*

*Management Information Systems - please tell us which MIS you use for Staff, student and financial records*

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

**PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR STAFF AND GOVERNORS**

**The next newsletter will be sent out on Monday 27th September 2021**

### Contact your MAT Project Leads:

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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**