



St. Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust Newsletter

17th December 2021

As we come to the end of 2021, the Board of directors of St. Francis wanted to share with you the progress we have continued to make since last half term.

We have now been able to meet with our interim CEO, Heidi Adcock and our CFO, Kev Matchett who are looking forward to getting to know all our schools once they take up their posts in January. They will be based, for the time being, at the Pastoral Centre and would happily accept any offers of office space from schools so they can be out and about within

the CMAT. Please see their pen pictures at the end of this update.

The Board has continued to meet, there are many important background tasks needing our attention in preparation for establishing the CMAT. We have addressed banking, insurance, HR and finance matters so far, as well as being involved in preparing the TCaF bid to supplement other funding in the set up phase. We are currently reviewing the scheme of delegation, which we will send out to schools in the New Year. Following our visioning day, we have been responding to invitations to meet with heads and chairs, either individually or as a family of schools, and would welcome the opportunity to talk with the rest of the St. Francis schools. We also want to meet with School Business Managers in the New Year to talk about the next steps in the formation of the CMAT.

We are determined that our CMAT will be built in partnership with our schools. Our greatest resource is our staff and we want to identify those who will contribute to building our capacity in the development of the Catholic Life of our schools, School Improvement, Finance and Business. We want the four key principles of the Common Good, human dignity, subsidiarity and solidarity to run through everything we do in St. Francis CMAT.

The directors would like to thank everyone working in schools for everything they continue to do for Catholic education. We recognise the tremendous challenges posed by COVID throughout this term, but more particularly in the last few weeks to staff. We would like to wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas and return to school rested and ready for 2022.

Ofsted Good News

Congratulations to St. Mary's Herringthorpe and St. Joseph's and St. Teresa's Woodlands which remain good schools. Congratulations to everyone on all their commitment and hard work.

Save the Date 25th January 2022

Heidi has been working with Steve Davies (St Clare CEO designate) and the Diocesan school's department to plan the school improvement strategy going forward. There will be a virtual meeting on Tuesday 25th January 2022 from 09.30 to 12.00 for all Diocesan heads with both CEOs in order to share with you the work of the strategy group to date and to explore how we will take this work further together as we build our CMATs.

Heidi Adcock

I am excited to be joining St Francis CMAT in January 2022; I came to South Yorkshire in 1987 and began teaching in 1990. I am a qualified Human Resources (CIPD) and finance professional (CIPFA). From 2016 to 2020 I held a Chief Operating Officer and Company Secretary role in the Diocese of Sheffield and I am currently Interim Chief Operating Officer at Sheffield Cathedral.

Previously, I enjoyed a varied, twenty two year fast-track career in the Civil Service at senior levels in a number of Government Departments, including the Department for Education and HM Treasury. Beyond work, I enjoy my Non-Exec role in an Academy Trust, Parkrun and volunteering. I am married to Iain with two boys. I look forward to working with, and getting to know, you all.

Kev Matchett

I have worked in the academy sector for over twelve years. During this time, I have seen the sector develop into a very different model for education than was first envisaged. Originally, government policy was to create specialist individual schools, with the current policy being a desire for all schools to join a MAT. This ever evolving landscape has significantly changed the role of the Chief Financial Officer.

I qualified as an accountant in 2010, gaining promotion to the position of Chief Financial Officer a year later. During this time, I have been the Director of Finance for eight academies.

I have strong background in academy conversions, creating new Trusts and I have also successfully bid for a new academy through the free school program. Working alongside my CEO to create a new school with a brand new building is perhaps the proudest achievement of my career.

Over my time in education I have built up a broad range of skills and experience in other key areas; governance, legal, health & safety and estates management which will be essential for this role.

My hope is I can use these skills, and others, to help build and advance St Francis Trust to be the best MAT in the country. I have an open style of management which means I am keen to meet and work with all stakeholders in this process to ensure the MAT delivers excellence for all.

I see the opportunity with St Francis as unique and exciting. I am very much looking forward to starting in January and working with all the governors, staff and students of the Trust. Together we can build a creative and inspiring environment for all our students.