



ST ANTONY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Miss Chantal Pampellonne

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Tel: 020 8504 4706 www.stantonyscatholicps.co.uk

8th October 2018

Dear Governor/Member of Staff/Parents and Carers,

I write to you regarding a very important development within the Diocese of Brentwood that affects all Catholic Primary and Secondary schools. On Sunday 9th September (Education Sunday) Bishop Alan Williams' pastoral letter (attached), told parishioners of his will for all Catholic schools within the Diocese of Brentwood to become part of Catholic Multi Academy Trusts, grouped in geographical areas. He detailed the opportunities for staff to build upon existing networks to further support the excellent work of Catholic schools across the Diocese in delivering holistic education based upon Gospel values. There has also been much talk in the media about academies, free schools and Multi Academy Trusts (MATs). These already exist across the country and in our locality of Redbridge. All of these have been part of the educational landscape for a number of years as a direct result of government policy.

As Bishop Alan stated in his pastoral letter, it is the aim that all of the Catholic primary and secondary schools in Barking, Dagenham and Redbridge will join together in one Catholic MAT over the next couple of years, with the expectation that all schools will be part of one these Catholic MATs by the autumn term 2020. The Headteachers of these schools have been meeting regularly over the last 2 years to discuss how this may work in the future so every school has a voice. Every school will maintain its own identity but will have the opportunity to contribute to the continued development of the excellent Catholic schools spanning this geographical area.

While schools continue their discussions and planning for this change, I thought it may be helpful to explain a little more about multi-academy trusts in an attempt to answer any initial queries you may have.

What are MATs?

A multi-academy trust (MAT) is a single entity established to undertake a strategic collaboration to improve and maintain high educational standards across a number of schools. A group of schools form a single MAT which has overarching responsibility for their governance.

Like everything, there are very good MATs which are making a real difference to, and improving the educational outcomes of, the young people that they serve and there are those that have performed less well.

What will it mean for our school?

I am writing to you because it is crucial to all schools that they are prepared for the future and how they can continue to provide excellent education to the children whom they serve.

As a Catholic school in the Diocese of Brentwood, we are pleased that Bishop Alan Williams has provided leadership and a very clear rationale for our response to MATs. When the school joins the MAT there will be very little, if any, changes you will notice. The main



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changes will take place at Governing Board level as the role of our schools' governors will change, but they will still be there to carry out their main role of helping to preserve and develop the Catholic vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school by supporting and challenging each school's leadership team.

What does this mean for you and your child?

Essentially, everything that you signed up for when you sent your child to St Antony's will remain the same when the school joins the MAT. Your child will continue to be taught by the teachers employed by school and the same ethos and values remain in place. However, we will then be in the position of being able to share expertise and resources more effectively across a number of schools in the MAT so that we can continue to improve outcomes for our children.

The Future

Having researched and spoken to other schools that are in Catholic MATs it is clear that there are many opportunities and benefits of being in a MAT. Whilst schools are able to protect their individuality, they are also able to enhance the quality of the education to the young people that they serve.

Should you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can also find further information and frequently asked questions on multi-academy trusts attached to this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Pampellonne

Head Teacher

God is at the heart of our school