



Dear Parents & Carers,

In April of 2021, I wrote to inform you of the proposal for our school to join with other schools in the Diocese and form one of the two proposed Catholic Multi Academy Trusts. We subsequently held a vote on naming our CMAT and the name St Clare's was decided upon (the other CMAT being named St Francis's)

Since this time a great deal of work has been invested into the formation of these CMAT's and as a Governing Body we have been supportive of Bishop Ralph's vision for the future of Catholic education in the Diocese.

We held an extraordinary meeting of the Governing Body on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February to carefully consider all of the consultation feedback received, from both parents and staff, and I thank you for your valuable contributions to this process. In this meeting we looked at the all of the information which has informed the report, which I attach to this email for your reference.

As a Governing Board we were satisfied that the consultation was robust and had not identified any issues which would prevent the CMAT from achieving the aim of improving Catholic education for all involved. Consequently, we felt the decision to join the CMAT was the correct one for our school.

We unanimously agreed to approve a resolution to join the St Clare's CMAT at the first possible opportunity. The proposed date for joining is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, although this is subject to all processes being completed on time by the Dept for Education, and may be subject to change.

I would encourage you to visit the Diocesan website and read all of the documents available. You can do so by clicking this link:

<https://hallam-diocese.com/schools-home/mat-development/>

Over the coming weeks school staff will be explaining this exciting stage in Notre Dame's long tradition of providing Catholic education to young people in the city of Sheffield. We will join with other schools and all be stronger for this but we will retain the distinctive character and traditions, and of course the name, of Notre Dame High School.

I am sure that you will join me in offering our prayers and support to the staff at school and those staff working for the emerging CMAT to ensure a successful launch to the St Clare's Multi Academy Trust later in the Spring.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Martin Colclough

Chair of the Governing Body