



**ST. PETER CATHOLIC
ACADEMY TRUST**
BY SERVICE, TOWARDS GOD



September 2019

Potential Merger of St Alban Catholic Academies Trust (Luton and Dunstable) and St Peter Catholic Academies Trust (Slough) to form St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust

Dear Colleagues and stakeholders of our Catholic Schools

We are writing to provide information about exciting plans for the governance of our Catholic schools within the Diocese of Northampton, plans that are entirely consistent with the values of Catholic Education. Currently, the Diocese provides Catholic education across 43 Catholic schools, 19 of which are a part of one of 5 Multi Academy Trusts. It is the Bishop's intention that we work towards creating 2 larger regional Multi Academy Trusts, one in the south of the Diocese and one in the north.

In the south this would affect the 2 existing academy trusts in Luton and Dunstable and Slough who are working towards the formation of a single Multi Academy Trust (MAT) called St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust. In the north, 3 trusts in Bedford and Northampton will become Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust. The aim is to achieve this by January 2020.

For our Trust this will mean that those schools currently in St Alban Catholic Academies Trust (St Margaret of Scotland, St Martin de Porres, St Vincent's, St Mary's and Cardinal Newman Catholic School) and those schools currently in St Peter Catholic Academy Trust (St Anthony's, St Ethelbert's and St Joseph's Catholic High School) will merge to be a part of the St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust from January 2020.

Those schools not yet academies are working towards joining the new MAT at a date which is most appropriate for them.

There are already strong local partnerships across the Diocese, with schools working closely together across a range of areas, including school improvement. The formation of the regional MATs will strengthen these arrangements and those local partnerships will continue to flourish. The aim is to develop further a welcoming community of faith that has Christ at the centre of our lives, where all within our schools' communities have a love of God and a love of one another; where prayer and liturgy will shape our daily life.

Details of the proposal, school improvement and governance structures have been developed through the Diocese of Northampton, CEOs, Chairs of Directors and representative Headteachers.

We believe this development will bring exciting benefits to the pupils, students and staff in all schools in the new Trust and we are looking forward to working together even more closely.

In particular, there will be benefits in strengthening both governance and school improvement across the schools, providing an even stronger framework for schools to support one another. There will also be a greater ability to recruit, retain and develop leaders at all levels to ensure we have Catholic leaders for the future, whilst creating a system to develop our most talented teachers and leaders.

Financially, having regional MATS will be more efficient and enable best practice to be shared whilst providing economies of scale to provide more resources to support school improvement.

Whilst the overall MAT will be new, there will be little changing within individual schools and where changes may affect individuals, for example where there are duplicate roles in areas of statutory responsibility, we have taken care to inform those individuals ahead of this information being released to the wider community of schools and stakeholders.

A copy of this letter will be placed on schools websites.

If you have any questions or comments about these plans you are welcome to raise those by email to merger@stcat.co.uk. The CEOs of each Trust will respond to your queries in due course.

We very much hope you will be supportive of this decision and we look forward to continuing to work hard to provide the best possible Catholic education for the children in our schools.

Yours faithfully

Joe Richardson

*CEO, St Alban Catholic Academies
Trust*

Ciran Stapleton

*CEO, St Peter Catholic Academies
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