

## St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Hazelgrove Road

Haywards Heath

West Sussex

RH16 3PQ

Headteacher: Mrs Catherine Walker BEd (Hons) MA



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6<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to you on behalf of the Governors following the work that was undertaken with other Catholic schools within the diocese looking to explore and develop plans to establish a Catholic multi-academy trust, the Teresa Catholic Education Trust.

The Full Governing Body met at the end of last term and voted to apply for an Academy Order to develop the next stages of these plans and application.

As part of this process extensive work was undertaken last term in all schools including a due diligence and consultation process. This work included time invested in every school evaluating the educational standards and financial planning.

Some key facts to share include;

- the 13 schools involved are made up of nearly 4900 students and 640 staff;
- 84% of the schools are graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted in their latest Section 5 reports;
- 46% are graded as outstanding in their Section 48 reports which evaluates the quality of Catholic education, ethos and leadership;
- over 360 people responded to the consultation process across all the schools involved with 62% voting in favour of the proposals. We are grateful for all those who engaged in this process, responded to the consultation process or attended the public meeting;
- all governing bodies were invited to vote on applying for an Academy Order to access funding to further plan and establish the conversion process for our schools. Ten schools have decided to move forward at this point with another two schools looking to make a decision by the end of January. We were one of the schools who voted to continue this journey with other Catholic schools in the diocese.



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In the coming term we will be building on this progress by;

- working with the Directors of the Multi-Academy Trust appointed by Bishop Richard and the diocese to plan the next stages of development;
- engaging with school leaders, governors and business managers to establish the financial plans for the future in each school and look for ways to work closely together;
- establishing the Heads' and Chairs' Advisory Forum to guide and develop the work being done across our schools and ensure a strong voice for every school involved;
- looking to ensure clear communication to all stakeholders at key stages of development.

We believe this is an important stage of the development of our work together and we are grateful for all those who have invested time in nurturing the plans and building the foundations of what we are doing to ensure the continued success and development of outstanding Catholic education across our schools.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Ekins  
**Chair of Governors**

Mrs C Walker  
**Headteacher**

