

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers

Conversion to Academy Status within the Diocese of Middlesbrough

This letter is to further inform you about the plans for St Francis Xavier School to become an Academy within the larger organisation set up by the Middlesbrough Diocese called St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Academy Trust (SMCCAT). The Bishop and Governors firmly believe that this change will enable us to continue to improve the opportunities provided for your child and support the school in its future development.

Following the consultation process carried out in the Autumn Term 2018, all the Catholic Schools in the North Yorkshire, East Riding and York Local Authorities within the Middlesbrough Diocese (including St Francis Xavier School) agreed that working together within a Multi Academy Trust would be in the best interests for all our pupils and students. Therefore the schools applied to the Department for Education to convert to academy status and the academy orders were granted in December 2018.

Since then a Shadow Trust Board has been appointed and has been working with the project managers to ensure the conversion process runs smoothly.

The SMCCAT will be made up of 20 Catholic Schools (including St Francis Xavier as a joint Catholic and Church of England School) within the Middlesbrough Diocese. These schools consist of 3 secondary schools and 17 primary schools. The core purpose of the SMCCAT is to promote a secure foundation from which to achieve high standards through a shared vision across the schools.

Each of the schools will continue to run as they currently are with Head Teachers or Executive Head Teachers, supported by the existing senior leadership team structure at each school, who will be responsible for the overall running and progress of the individual schools. Each school will be overseen by their local Governing Body which is in turn supported by the Trust Boards. The Trust Board of Directors are all unpaid volunteers who have a range of skills, experience and expertise, many of whom have been Governors from our school.

In order to ensure that all the schools in the SMCCAT convert by September 2019 some schools will convert during the Summer Term. The date on which St Francis Xavier School will become an Academy will be 1 June 2019. From the date of conversion the school will be known as **'St Francis Xavier School - A Joint Catholic and Church of England Voluntary Academy'**.

We look forward to working in partnership with Schools and we aim to achieve exciting and transformational change to provide the best for our children now and in the future. If you do have any questions about the trust, please feel free to contact your child's school in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. H.', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

David Harrison
Executive Project Director
St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Academy Trust