

# Headteacher's Report

## Autumn 2015

We have started the 2015-2016 Academic year by taking probably the most important step to date for Trinity Catholic College. The conversion to Academy Status on 1st November 2015 alongside ten of our Catholic partnership primary schools to become St Hilda's Catholic Multi Academy Trust has formed a strong family bond across the majority of catholic schools in Middlesbrough. It was neither an easy or straightforward journey to conversion but by working together with patience and belief we eventually arrived at our destination together.

A huge amount of hard work took place during the conversion process and enormous thanks goes to all involved including AVEC, Bond Dickinson and our Business Managers.

I was interested to read the following:

*"Bede describes Hilda as a woman of great energy, who was a skilled administrator and teacher. As a landowner she had many in her employ to care for sheep and cattle, farming and woodcutting. She gained such a reputation for wisdom that kings and princes sought her advice. She also had a concern for ordinary folk such as Cædmon, however. He was a herder at the monastery, who was inspired in a dream to sing verses in praise of God. Hilda recognised his gift and encouraged him to develop it. Bede writes, "All who knew her called her mother because of her outstanding devotion and grace".*

So much in this short passage equates to what we attempt across our schools every day; *energy, teach, employ, advise, concern, inspire, encourage*. It seems we chose St Hilda wisely, not only in name for our Multi-Academy Trust but also as our patron and pray she will watch over us all and guide us in our decisions.

We celebrated our Academy Conversion during our Joint PD day in October with the majority of staff from across all our schools joining in. Mass at St Mary's Cathedral was very special and I hope this will be the first of many masses we share as a Multi-Academy Trust.

Whilst the Academy conversion was underway, Trinity staff and pupils have been going about their busy routines as normal and this report is my celebration of their skills, efforts and good works.



**'An inclusive learning community living out gospel values'**



## St Hilda's Catholic Academy Trust Joint PD Day

On Friday 23rd October staff and governors from ten catholic primary schools joined with staff and governors from Trinity for a shared professional development day to commemorate the opening of St Hilda's Catholic Academy Trust. Proceedings started with Holy Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in Coulby Newham. This was followed by inputs from guests speakers on understanding the new OFSTED framework and opportunities for teachers from different school to share best practice. The event ended with an inspirational talk from John McCarthy who took the audience through the full range of emotions with stories and recollections of his time in captivity.

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