

Wednesday 27th March 2019

Dear Colleagues,

## **Consultation on St Thomas More Partnership of Schools joining Trinity Multi-Academy Trust.**

St Thomas More Catholic School became an academy in 2011 in a Single Academy Trust. In 2012, at the request of the Governors of Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School Byermoor, the school converted the Single Academy Trust into a Multi-Academy Trust, St Thomas More Partnership of Schools and Sacred Heart joined. In 2015, St Matthews Catholic Primary School Prudhoe joined the Trust.

The Directors of St Thomas More Partnership of Schools have, after careful consideration, decided that the long-term security of all the schools in the trust are best served by being part of a larger organisation and have resolved that the St Thomas More Partnership of Schools should be merged into Trinity Multi-Academy Trust.

Trinity Multi-Academy Trust will, by the time that St Thomas More Partnership of Schools joins, contain the following schools:

Cardinal Hume Catholic School Wrekenton  
St Annes Catholic Primary School Harlow Green  
St Robert of Newminster Comprehensive School Washington  
St Michaels RC Primary School Houghton-le-Spring  
St John Boste RC Primary School Washington  
St Josephs RC Primary School Washington Village  
St Bedes RC Primary School Washington  
Our Lady Queen of Peace RC Primary School Penshaw.

The consultation period will run for three school weeks and begins on Monday 25th March 2019 and will end on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

### **Benefits for St Thomas More Partnership of Schools**

The trust currently consists of one secondary school and two primary schools. There has been immense value for all the schools in collaborating. For Sacred Heart and St Matthews this has been a more general collaboration across a wide range of things and for St Thomas More there has been a focus on a curriculum match up across the transition between Year 6 and Year 7.

In a larger trust which contains more secondary schools St Thomas More will be in a position to collaborate with other secondary schools. Should any of the secondary schools in the larger trust need support, then there will be other schools alongside able to help. It can be argued that none of this requires the formation of a larger trust, however without the trust such collaboration and support is



optional.

For the enlarged primary group there are wider opportunities for collaboration, for moderation and staff development. Should a school need support then there is a wider pool to draw from. If the schools are members of the trust, the collaboration and support is built into the workings of the trust rather than being optional.

Finances are currently very tight. It will be possible, over time, to reduce costs by economies of scale, and by sharing staff and services.

This is not a particularly significant change for our schools, it simply places them in a larger trust.

### Other Points

From the user perspective, for our students and parents it is unlikely that you will be aware of the change, other than possibly logo changes.

The legal change will involve the staff of St Thomas More Partnership of Schools being transferred into Trinity Multi-Academy Trust, along with the assets of the trust.

Schools in the trust currently have local governing bodies, this will continue. The legal structure of Trinity will be very similar to that of St Thomas More Partnership of Schools.

The proposal is that St Thomas More Partnership of Schools will join Trinity Multi-Academy Trust in July 2019, or early September 2019.


### Responding to the Consultation

If you wish to respond to this consultation please do so in writing to Mr J S Hayes, Chair of Directors St Thomas More Partnership of Schools, St Thomas More Catholic School, Croftdale Road, Blaydon-on-Tyne, NE21 4BQ

Yours sincerely,



Mr J Parkinson  
Chief Executive Officer  
St Thomas More Partnership of Schools



Mr J S Hayes  
Chair of Directors  
St Thomas More Partnership of Schools

