



St Francis of Assisi
Academies Trust

TRUST NEWS

Bedford Catholic Schools: The Complete Education

February 2015
Issue 1

WELCOME TO TRUST NEWS

The Governors of the St Francis of Assisi Multi Academy Trust (SFAAT) Schools are delighted to share with you our first Trust Newsletter. Each term, a new edition of the Trust News will be circulated to all parents, carers and staff of the Trust.



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TRUST SCHOOLS

The Trust provides an all-through Catholic education to the people of Bedfordshire from age 2-19 years. All four of Bedford's Catholic Schools are part of the St Francis of Assisi Academies Trust (SFAAT); St Joseph's Lower School, St John Rigby Primary School, St Gregory's Middle School and St Thomas More Teaching School.

These four schools are governed by one legal entity, the Trust, which falls within the Diocese of Northampton.



“We aim to provide outstanding education to every child in our schools, and guide their moral and spiritual development founded on our Catholic ethos. We celebrate their success.”

C. Donnellan,
Chair of the Trust



St Thomas More Racing Car. S Prudden & Team

FACT BOX

DID YOU KNOW...?

The Trust Governors have sponsored the latest More Racing Car (see left).

We're very excited about seeing it in action soon.

FOCUS ON:

THE EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL Dr. ALAN LEE

It is my privilege to be the Executive Principal (EP) of our Trust; a position I have held since April 2010. There are four key strands to my role: strategy, school improvement, finance and governance.

I advise the Board of Governors on key strategic decisions. Extending provision from lower to primary education and gaining academy status would be two examples. Individual Head Teachers are responsible for standards within their schools. However, overall responsibility across all key stages rests with me. Academies must appoint an Accounting Officer. I fulfil this role for our Trust and am responsible to Parliament for the

use of public funds by our Improvement Advisor, an schools. Finally, I am a ASCL Council member Foundation Director, appointed by the Bishop to ensure the teachings of the Catholic Church are upheld.



“My aim is to deliver world class Catholic Education in Bedford.”

Beyond my EP role, I am a National Leader of Education (awarded to Head Teachers classed ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted), a Lead Inspector, a School

These activities involve me providing support and advice to other school leaders, leading inspections, representing the views of Head Teachers to government, publishing articles on education and providing presentations to audiences both nationally and internationally.

My aim is to deliver world class Catholic education in Bedford. Of course, I welcome all contributions on how this may be achieved and how you can help. Please do not hesitate to contact me at: alee@stm.sch.beds.uk

Every blessing in Christ

Alan

INTRODUCING THE GOVERNING BODY TEAM

The **Full Governing Body** meets termly and comprises of Foundation Directors, Staff Members and Parent Members.

Our work is focused into four main areas, each with its own committee that meets once a term: **Finance Committee, Catholic Life Committee, Strategy Committee** and the **Performance Committee**.

Each of the four schools also has a half-termly **Academy Support Improvement Group (ASIG)**, which deals with the day to day operations of the individual schools.



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

CHAIR: Christopher Donnellan

VICE CHAIR: Mary Morris

Dr Alan Lee (Executive Principal)

Cathy Piotrowski

Ira Ottley

Mary O'Sullivan

Fr Malcolm Bull

Lisa Sanderson

Alison Wilshaw (HT, STM)

Adam Palmer (HT, SJR)

Lisa Sumpter (HT, SJS)

Frances Topa (HT, SGS)

Mary Langley (St Gregory's)

Ilona Bond (St Thomas More)

Debra Burton

ROLE OF THE GOVERNORS

Our highly dedicated team of Governors work incredibly hard to support the schools, focusing on the following main areas:

Performance: Reviewing performance management and challenging School's performance (results).

Catholic Life: Ensuring our schools play an active part in the mission of the Church and promotes the well being, inclusion and particular needs of all in our community.

Strategy: Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.

Finance: Overseeing financial performance and ensuring money is well spent.

PARENT Q&A

Your views are important to us. The next editions will feature your questions about the Trust and the Governing body.

CONTACT US

Please send us any questions/ feedback you have using the contact details below:

Andrew Waterhouse (Trust Secretary)

Email: sfaat@stm.beds.sch.uk

Lisa Sanderson (Editor)

Email: newsletter@stm.beds.sch.uk

USEFUL LINKS

Find out more information on each of the four Trust Schools by visiting their websites:

www.stjohnrigby.org

www.st-josephs.beds.sch.uk

www.st-thomasmore.org.uk

www.st-gregorys.beds.sch.uk

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FINAL THOUGHT

'THANK YOU' by Dr. Alan Lee

Like most teachers, I love teaching. It is a wonderful vocation that makes a huge difference to children's lives. It was with great sadness therefore, I read last week that 'more teachers are quitting the profession than at any point in the last 10 years' - 50 000 nationally in the year 2012-13 alone. The main reason cited was excessive workload.

Despite this, teachers throughout our Trust continue to give more and more. Sports teams, drama groups, music productions and school trips are amongst the huge array of activities teachers regularly provide. So, I would like to dedicate this first edition of the Trust News to all our teachers, teaching assistants and those leading school activities. And, I would like to say to all our pupils and parents/carers that the next time you/your child is involved in one or other extracurricular event, you may like to say an extra big thank you to the dedicated professional leading that event.

NEXT TIME: (May 2015)

- **What is a Multi Academy Trust and why are we one?**
- **FOCUS ON: Vice Chair of Governors, Mary Morris**
- **GOVERNOR ACTIVITY: Structure of The Governing Body**
- **PARENT Q&A: Your chance to ask us your questions.**