**North West Catholic Dioceses Training Partnership**

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 **The Post Graduate Catholic Leadership Programme 2017**

**The Purpose of the PGCLP:**

The proposal to develop the PGCLP has arisen from conversations with Catholic leaders who have participated in the Catholic Leadership Programme over the past 12 years. Each year the written evaluations from CLP delegates express an appetite for continuing, deepening or refreshing the spirituality, understanding of mission and the network of support experienced during the programme. Delegates from the 2015 and 2016 CLP commented:

* ***“****I wish I could continue having a regular opportunity to engage with a course to encourage further reflection, but also have the opportunity to build stronger bonds with fellow Catholic leaders”.*
* *“It should be an option for all teachers each half term to ground them in their faith and to remind them why we are here. Perhaps even have a CLP reunion each year with prayer, reflection and an objective. It honestly revives me spiritually each time”.*
* *“I will really miss this programme! I wish it could be on-going for the rest of my career as a support through the difficult and challenging times”*

The challenges facing leaders in Catholic schools are not going to dissipate as the years pass and given the extensions to the retirement age they are likely to be in post for longer! Where are they going to find the opportunities for spiritual renewal or the formation of a deeper understanding of the Church’s transformational mission? There is a demand for a follow-up programme to the CLP. As Alan Flintham put in ‘Reservoirs of Hope’:

*“This personal reservoir of hope for the individual has to be periodically refilled by a variety of replenishment and sustainability strategies, without which the leader will either ‘burn out’ by being unable to sustain hope and energy levels in the face of relentless pressures for change, or ‘drop out’ and withdraw from the change arena and in the memorable words of one primary head participant “die a lingering death through managing from the stock cupboard””.*

**Who is it for?**

Graduates of the CLP who completed the programme 2 or more years previously who are in a senior leadership post in their school. (The PGCLP would not be open to headteachers as there are currently alternatives available, not least from the National School of Formation).

This is not intended to be a ‘CLP Mark II’. The programme is designed for experienced Catholic leaders who wish to explore their vocation in a deeper way. There will be opportunities for reflection and spiritual refreshment, and for developing their resilience and ‘a hope-filled vision’, as well as for exploring individual issues, needs and future aspirations.

**The Structure of the Programme:**

* Four evening sessions with a speaker
* A one-day conference at Liverpool Hope
* Two residential conferences at Whalley Abbey
* At least three one-to-one sessions with a mentor
* Opportunities for reading and reflection

**Group Sessions:**

The delegates will work in groups of 4 or 5 at each evening session (and if possible at the conferences). Discussions will be structured, based upon prior reading and will be facilitated by members of the PGCLP team.