

Our Ref: SAS/AW

24th January 2023

Dear Colleagues

I trust you have settled into the rhythm of a new term and are making the most of what is, for some, a relatively short half term. Recent school visits continue to impress on me the challenges school leaders are facing in their interactions with families and wider childrens' services.

The Sequencing of Schools into Diocesan Catholic Academy Trusts

As previously discussed, please find enclosed the sequencing of diocesan VA schools into the relevant CAT beginning this term and concluding by 2030 as stated in the Bishop's vision for education 'Rebuilding the church, fit for future generations'.

As previously set out in earlier letters, each school has been grouped in the family of schools most appropriate. They are commonly built around partnerships involving a high school or a local authority. Building on parish partnerships and educational collaborations and networks is also key to what we are aiming to do. Medium/longer term timescales will be regularly reviewed and republished.

Just before Christmas, we asked governors to complete a google form survey that gave us more information to refine our plans. Where there has been a significant mismatch between the ambition of governors and our initial sequencing arrangements, contact was made with those schools identified to join their CAT within the next 12-18 months. The capacity of an LA, academy trust and diocese to undertake the necessary legal changes means that a steady number of schools should be admitted to the trust over time without significant fluctuation year on year.

In terms of timings. The variables we considered were shared with you in the previous communication last term and includes: the position of a local authority in their intent or capacity to maintain schools; what capacity there is of a school or group of schools that brings stability and strength through their provision and capacity.

Once a school becomes in scope (shown as 'start'), stage one will be agreed automatically by diocesan trustees. From this point, the trust will make contact with the headteacher within the term. You can see the timeframe and actions required form the enclosed document.

Governors who determine they wish to join the CAT before they are sequenced should follow the existing protocols.

In the meantime, thank you for all that you are doing in securing the very best experience for the young people in our care.

/Continued. . .

Simon A Smith

Director and Episcopal Delegate for Education

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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S A Smith". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

S A Smith

Director and Episcopal Delegate for Education