30 April 2018

**A letter from the Chair of Directors and Headteacher to all parents / carers of pupils attending St Wilfrid’s RC College, within Northern Saints Catholic Education Trust**

**ASSURING OUR CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE THROUGH THE GROWTH OF NORTHERN SAINTS CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST**

Dear Parent/Carer

As you are aware, St Wilfrid’s converted to an academy on 1 February 2016 as the sole school within Northern Saints Catholic Education Trust. At the time of conversion, it was always envisaged that over time additional schools would become part of the Trust as a family of schools.

Two schools have, in recent weeks, made requests to become part of Northern Saints Catholic Education Trust: St Joseph’s Catholic Academy, Hebburn and St Mary’s RC Primary School, Jarrow.

The Board of Directors and Governors of both schools have voted unanimously to join our Trust. We have held an initial meeting with the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and we now need to commence a period of consultation. The proposed joining date is 1 November 2018.

The development of Northern Saints Catholic Education Trust will provide an opportunity to further enhance the quality of education provided in our schools for the benefit of our young people. Additionally, the development of the Trust with both primary and secondary schools will provide the opportunity for high quality education for catholic families and the communities we serve from early years provision up to and including key stage 5. At a time of increasing financial pressures for individual schools, it will also provide greater reliability to enable us to preserve and further develop catholic education within South Tyneside and the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle.

Furthermore, our partnership work and support of other schools has provided opportunities for ongoing professional development and career progression for staff. It is envisaged that this will continue and be further enhanced as the Trust grows.

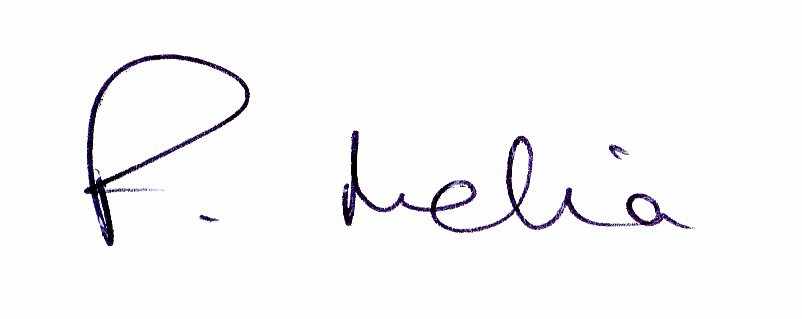
We are therefore commencing formal consultation today, Monday 30 April 2018 for a period of four weeks. Consultation will end at 12 noon on Friday 25 May 2018.

**How do I respond to the consultation?**

Our Directors would value your opinion. We will be holding a drop in session attended by the Headteacher, further details will be added to our website. The aim of the drop in session is to hear your views and answer any questions you might have.

Finally, we have provided a consultation response sheet attached to this letter. If you wish to provide a written response to the consultation, please complete and return this to the Main Reception.

Yours sincerely,

Mr B Tapping Mr P Melia

Headteacher Chair of Directors

**Northern Saints Catholic Education Trust, St Wilfrid’s RC College**

**Consultation Feedback Form**

Please let us know your views regarding St Joseph’s Catholic Academy and St Mary’s RC Primary, Jarrow joining Northern Saints Catholic Education Trust.

Name…………………………………………………………………………………...

Contact details………………………………………………………………………...

☐Parent/guardian ☐Staff ☐Resident ☐Other

Your written response should be handed in at the Main Reception and marked “Private and Confidential) by no later than **12 noon on Friday 25 May 2018**.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the consultation.