

December 14<sup>th</sup> 2012

Dear Parent, dear Parishioner



## **IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN BASILDON**

We would like to share with you some very significant and exciting developments happening in our schools. These developments will help to secure standards, increase investment, and deepen the ways in which the schools work together, benefitting every child. We are sending this letter to every parent of a child in the four Catholic schools in Basildon, and every parishioner in the Catholic Parish of Our Lady and All Saints (in which each of our schools is situated). In February we will have some open meetings for parents and parishioners, so that we can share more with you.

We are about to create the "**Basildon Catholic Collegiate Trust.**" The Trust will be led by De La Salle, and has the active support and involvement of St Anne Line Junior, St Anne Line Infant, and St Teresa's School. Each Governing Body has voted overwhelmingly in favour, and the Local Authority, De La Salle Brothers and Brentwood Diocese have also been an integral part of the discussions. You will be aware that St Teresa's has been through a difficult period since April; there are already demonstrable improvements, and the creation of the Trust will secure these, as well as ensuring that none of our schools ever stands alone in the future.

The benefits of this approach are:

- The **very best practice** can be shared between our schools.
- **Each school retains its independence** – they will still each have their own school name, Headteacher, Governing Body, and unique Department of Education number – but together we can develop curriculum links that help in the "transition" moments from Infants to Juniors, and from Primary to Secondary School.
- There is support from the Department of Education which means that in 2013/14 **approximately £200,000 will come into the Trust.** This will help with resources, and in particular will support St Teresa's as the improvements in teaching and learning continue.

All of this is in addition to current developments:

- **£10million building programme at De La Salle**, ensuring state of the art facilities by September 2013.
- **£30,000 investment specifically in the Early Years centre at St Teresa's**, opening in January 2013.
- **Recruitment of a new Headteacher** for St Teresa's, with interviews in January 2013.
- **St Anne Line Infant and Junior school teachers** are developing and enhancing their leadership skills through offering regular support to St Teresa's colleagues. Further development opportunities for all staff will be a significant feature of the new Trust, and a great benefit to pupils. There will be continued refurbishment, such as the wonderful recent refurbishment of the hall at St Anne Line Infants.

We are sure that this approach is the very best for Catholic children – and for all the children attending our schools. The **Catholic Parish of Our Lady and All Saints provides invaluable support**, not merely in the provision of a grant of £2000/year to each of the primary schools, but also in the extensive youth ministry in the parish, providing many opportunities for children and young people, and in the readiness with which the parish facilities are offered to the schools for many Masses, concerts, and other liturgies throughout the year. A large number of parishioners serve as Governors in the schools, and the Priests and Ursuline Sisters also provide great pastoral support.

As our parents and parishioners, we ask for your prayers, and we thank you for all the support you give.

Yours sincerely

Dr Michael Curnock  
Headteacher, De La Salle

Fr Dominic Howarth  
Parish Priest

Mrs Angela Russell  
Headteacher, SAL Infant

Mr Martin Larrett  
Headteacher, SAL Junior

Mr Peter O'Kane  
Acting Head, St Teresa's