

# St Monica's R.C. High School



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Headteacher: Mrs. A.M. Hainsworth, BSc

25<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I write to you as Chair of the Interim Executive Board (IEB), on behalf of the Board, to update you on the actions we have taken in relation to governance of the school since the IEB was formed on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

First, I want to acknowledge improvements in the GCSE outcomes for the 2018 Year 11 cohort, most notably the 10 percent improvement from 2017 in the percentage of pupils leaving St. Monica's with a good pass in both English and mathematics. We acknowledge the hard work of the pupils and staff in these improvements with your support. However, we are not complacent as there is still more work to be done in improving outcomes across subjects and across different pupil groups.

You will recall from my letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 that the membership of the board comprises:

- John Costello, Chair, nominated by Bury LA
- John McManus, nominated by the Diocese of Salford
- Lynne Tommony, nominated by the Diocese of Salford
- Catherine Parkinson, nominated by Bury LA
- Steve Goodwin, nominated by Bury LA

Since the board was formed, we have held five board meetings, including an additional meeting to discuss staffing our curriculum plans for 2019 onwards. We have been supported in our work by external expertise including reports on safeguarding and on progress against the areas for improvement from the Ofsted inspection of January 2018.

Each member of the board is undertaking specific tasks in line with their expertise and skills set. Actions taken have included:

- Approving a curriculum and staffing review
- Scrutinising the school budget
- Ensuring that the senior leadership team and special educational needs department have been restructured with clear roles, responsibilities and accountability routes
- Scrutinising staffing absences, including the level and quality of temporary cover
- Checking on the pace and degree of improvements, taking into account recommendations from external reports
- Undertaking, through a sub-group, the Headteacher's performance management, setting objectives and supporting professional development needs

- Liaising with Bury Local Authority and the Diocese of Salford in relation to the support needed by the school at this time
- Holding individual meetings to discuss finance, human resource issues and the quality of special educational needs provision to inform the work of the board
- Engaging an external clerking service to provide administrative support and expertise in governance processes.

One of the most important aspects of the work of the IEB is to provide a significant degree of challenge to school leaders which, as parents, I am sure you welcome. This challenge has, in part, contributed to a range of improvements in outcomes. We have made clear to school leaders that we expect improvements to continue, and be sustained, as the year unfolds.

I am grateful to my fellow board members for giving so freely of their time, as volunteers, to improve outcomes for pupils at St. Monica's now and in the future.

In addition to providing high-quality governance to support improvement we are charged with facilitating conversion to academy status. At this point I have nothing concrete to share with you; however, rest assured, parents will be informed as soon as there is something to report. As first educators of your child/ren it is essential that we work in partnership with you now and in moving forward.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully



J P Costello

Chair of the Interim Executive Board