



Dear Parents

St Mary's, Grimsby, St Joseph's, Cleethorpes, St Norbert's, Crowle, St Augustine Webster, Scunthorpe, St Bernadette's, Scunthorpe, St Mary's, Brigg, St Bede's, Scunthorpe wish to consult with you with regards to conversion to Academy status and establishing a Multi-Academy Trust.

Earlier this year the Nottingham Diocesan Education Service established the principle of a model of partnership between clusters of schools, The Multi-Academy Trust model, in which Catholic Schools could convert to Academy status whilst safeguarding their distinctive Catholic ethos and ensuring that no school in the Diocese would be left in a vulnerable position. Indeed with the blessing of the Diocese the first Academy Trust came into being on September 1st 2011: The South Nottingham Catholic Academy Trust.

The Northern Lincolnshire cluster of schools named above, having considered the Diocesan guidance now wishes to consult with you on a proposal to formalise the already strong partnership between us as schools by coming together to establish a Multi-Academy Trust in 2012.

The Governors are committed to a meaningful and extensive consultation and are keen to know your views before coming to a final decision on whether to take the proposal any further.

The consultation period will run from September 23rd until October 31st 2011. The Northern Lincolnshire Catholic Schools website:

www.northernlincscatholicacademy.org.uk

will carry a:

- Introductory letter by Chairman of Governors
- Position statement for stakeholders
- Positive and negatives of Academy status
- Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust model
- Feedback form

We welcome your comments on the feedback form. If you wish to receive a hard copy of any of the online documents please contact the school.

In addition all schools are holding consultation events. St Bede's consultation evening is on Thursday September 29th at 7.00pm. We hope you can attend. This is an opportunity for you to share your views and to consider the arguments for and against conversion to a Multi-Academy Trust.

We look forward to hearing your views.

Yours sincerely

M Travers (Mrs)
Headteacher