

# The Newman Catholic Collegiate



St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy  
Little Chell Lane  
Tunstall  
Stoke on Trent  
ST6 6LZ

Telephone: 01782 883036  
Email: [ibeardmore@stmarysnewman.co.uk](mailto:ibeardmore@stmarysnewman.co.uk)

---

Chair of the Board of Directors: Dr G Meller

---

5<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Dear Colleagues/Parents/Carers

You received a letter earlier this term informing you that Newman Catholic Collegiate, with the support and advice of the Diocesan Education Service, was exploring a merger with All Saints Catholic Collegiate. Being part of a larger MAC would mean we would have greater resources and be able to offer even more support to our schools, benefitting all the children entrusted to our care. This is the vision of the Archbishop and Diocese for our Catholic schools, and also the way that the wider education sector is progressing. Only last week the Government announced in its White Paper the expectation that MACs should grow in size and cater for a larger number of pupils. The reason for this is that larger MACs have greater capacity to support and drive school improvement. The Newman Board is committed to this vision and want all Catholic schools in North Staffordshire to benefit from these systems.

On 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 the Directors of All Saints, without our prior knowledge, wrote to their school community to announce that they had decided to withdraw from the proposed merger between All Saints and The Newman Catholic Collegiate. This is a disappointing outcome, especially since the Shadow Board consisting of Directors from both MACs, supported by independent advisors and the Diocese, had appointed our Accounting Officer, Ian Beardmore, to the Role of Catholic Senior Executive Leader (CSEL) to lead the newly merged MAC.

Our newly appointed CSEL Mr Beardmore will continue working with our nine Newman schools to offer the best education, personal formation and opportunities for all our students. The Board of Directors and CSEL will continue conversations with the Diocesan Education Service and with all the North Staffordshire MACs to determine the most appropriate way forward to secure the maximum benefit for our schools.

Please be assured that the interests of children will always be at the heart of the decisions we take. The Newman Catholic Collegiate will continue to work in partnership with families, parishes and with the Diocesan Education service to ensure the very best for our pupils and our Catholic schools.

Yours faithfully

*Gillian Meller*

Dr Gillian M Meller  
Chair of the Board of Directors

---