

19.7.19

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of this academic year I wanted to write and update you all on Trust matters.

We have had a fantastic year with very positive inspections at all three schools.

West Didsbury CE had a church school inspection, known as SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) in November 2018 and received an 'Excellent' judgement.

Here is a quote from the report:

'Together with core Christian values, the school's vision ensures that everyone grows and flourishes in a loving and caring community.'

Didsbury CE had a SIAMS in January 2019 and also received an 'Excellent' judgement.

'The dynamic Christian vision of the school is intrinsically woven into every aspect of school life and was the driving force behind the creation of St James and Emmanuel MAT...The close relationship between church and school is seamless and contributes strongly to the strong ethos of welcome, inclusivity and community.'

Whilst in March 2019 St Wilfrid's CE had a full 2 day Ofsted inspection at which we received a 'Good' judgement.

'Through a rigorous programme of improvement, leaders have succeeded in raising standards.... Pupils enjoy coming to school and feel safe there.... Pupils of all abilities make good progress.'

Such pleasing performance within all our schools ensures that we as a Trust are building a strong reputation for system leadership and supporting progress. As you are aware from previous correspondence we have been asked to consider supporting another CE school in Stockport, St Elisabeth's CE which had a poor Ofsted in December 2018. Our Directors have completed a thorough process of due diligence and feel that we are ideally placed, having been through a similar situation with St Wilfrid's CE, to offer support and expertise that will benefit the children, staff, parish and community at St Elisabeth's CE, so legal work has commenced with a view to St Elisabeth's CE joining our family of schools in the Autumn term.

Directors firmly believe this will add to the capacity of our Trust and provide many opportunities for staff development, in the way working with St Wilfrid's CE on its remarkable journey over the last few years has benefited all our schools. There are also financial benefits to growing through greater economies of scale and the opportunity to split key costs four ways not three, leaving even more money in each school budget to spend directly within that school.

Finally, it has been wonderful to hear very recently about our performance in SATs and indeed throughout each school at the end of the year. We have very pleasing results in all of our schools and are delighted with the numbers of children achieving greater

depth, which shows the challenge and quality of the curriculum and the teaching but also the high standards our children are aiming for and capable of.

Such high academic standards and rigour clearly runs alongside a creative curriculum which enables children to flourish in many ways. Didsbury CE has developed the work of the ethos group to further support our **Belonging, Believing and Becoming** vision. West Didsbury CE has seen the forest school go from strength to strength and offer wonderful opportunities for learning outside the classroom, whilst St Wilfrid's CE only this week has achieved the silver award for UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools and the children's passion, thoughtful responses, love of school and respect for one another simply amazed the assessor.

Finally I would urge you to take a look at the St James and Emmanuel Multi Academy Trust website on : www.stjeat.co.uk for further information about the Trust, the Trust team and our vision.

I would like to wish everyone all the best for the summer holidays and hope that each of our Year 6 children quickly settle into their new High School in September.

Yours sincerely

Matt Whitehead

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