



October 2021

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“The glory of God is  
a human being fully alive!”

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Dear Parents and Carers of St Joseph’s Catholic Infants School,

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October St Joseph’s Catholic Infants School and St Edward’s Catholic Junior School joined the St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust and we are delighted that both schools are now part of our growing family of schools.

Celebrating the first day of St Joseph’s in the Trust, I was delighted to be able to join Mrs Taylor and her team. In addition to working with Mrs Taylor and the school business manager, I enjoyed a wonderful tour of the school, visiting confident and welcoming children in the Pre-School, excited children in Reception who expertly demonstrated their letter sounds, wonderful reading activities in year 1 and some class gym work in year 2. What I found was a school full of children who were confident, engaging and who appeared to love their school.



*Joe Richardson, Strategic Executive  
Leader*

In the weeks and months ahead, we will work closely with the school leadership team and staff to explore the ways that we can support one another in our growth. After Christmas, the school will welcome a team of skilled leaders from across our Trust schools for a Peer Review, a process through which we work out how we can best support St Joseph’s and all our Trust schools be the best they can be.

Although my role is now as the Executive Leader of our Academy Trust, I would like to highlight that my background is deeply rooted in teaching and Catholic Education. Like every teacher and all who work in our Catholic schools, I am here to serve the needs of the children in our schools, helping them grow close to God and teaching them so well that their God-given talents flourish.

Our Trust mission statement is:

**‘The glory of God is a human being fully alive!’**

For each child to be fully alive they must thrive spiritually, socially, morally, and academically. Above all, the children we serve must be loved and they must know they are loved. We cannot complete this mission alone and there will be many ways in which you can contribute towards that mission and we will write to you again to outline the ways you can support our mission.

In the short term, I simply ask that you read with your children every day no matter how old they are. If they are confident readers, read the same book with them and talk about it over breakfast or your evening meal. A child who can read confidently is a child who can encounter Christ's love through Scripture.

The school will shortly receive the gift of a tree to mark the start of our period of growth together. It is a that gift reminds us that to thrive and grow we must feed the roots – we do that through prayer, liturgy and drawing close to God in all we do.

Finally, I ask for your prayers for your school and for our Trust.

**ST JOSEPH - PRAY FOR US!**

**ST THOMAS - PRAY FOR US!**

Yours sincerely,

*Joe Richardson*

Joe Richardson (NPQEL, NPQH, M.Ed., PGCE, B.Sc.)

**Strategic Executive Leader**

**St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust**