



ST. MATTHEW'S
ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Voluntary Academy



EMMAUS
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Wednesday 8th March 2023

**St Matthew's RC High School, A Voluntary Academy - Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust.
Leadership Update**

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to inform you that Mrs Murden has taken the decision to step down from her role as Headteacher and will be leaving St Matthew's RC High School. We would like to thank Mrs Murden for all she has done for the students, staff and community of St Matthew's RC High School over the past five years.

Mrs Murden would like to share the following message:

I am writing to inform you that I will be leaving my role as Headteacher of St Matthew's on 30th April 2023.

In 2018, we began a journey towards Catholic excellence. Since then, we have witnessed many highlights for our young people, and have received various commendations for our work from external stakeholders, including Ofsted. We navigated the Covid pandemic, ensuring all our students were well educated and cared for, and we converted St Matthew's to the Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust at the request of Salford Diocese.

All these achievements and developments have been possible due to the hard work of our dedicated staff. It has always been a privilege to lead them in their work. Every day, wonderful things happen at St Matthew's for our young people, and this should never be overlooked.

The recent Ofsted inspection was a great disappointment and the final report deeply saddened us. The school have responded to the concerns in the inspection report and will continue to do so.

Following the Ofsted experience, I became quite unwell. I am working to recover. I will always be proud that I was entrusted to serve the St Matthew's community as Headteacher, and I gave the role everything I had during my tenure.

I wish all our staff the very best as they continue to serve our school mission and the young people of North Manchester.

Keeping you all in my prayers,

Mrs Murden

As a Local Governing Body and Trust Board, we announced in February that we had successfully recruited Mr Andrew Nightingale as an Associate Headteacher. We can now confirm that Mr Nightingale will start in the role as permanent Headteacher for St Matthew's RC High School after the Easter break. There will be an opportunity for students, staff and parents to meet with Mr Nightingale as he starts in role.

Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust will continue to support and add capacity to the school with Mr Lee Ormsby as an Emmaus Executive Leader. Mr Ormsby has continued working alongside leaders and staff at St Matthew's, adding capacity and a clear strategic direction for the school.

The new Local Governing Body for the school is working effectively to support and challenge school leaders. Students and staff will have seen first-hand the involvement of governors in school this term. We believe the capacity added to the school leadership and governance and with the support and leadership the Trust brings, we will continue to see improvements for the pupils at St. Matthew's.

We all want St Matthew's to be a sustainably great school serving the community and we look forward to working with our students, families and the community to ensure this is the case. We thank you all for your continued support for the school and community.

Yours sincerely



Sam Breslin
Chair, Local Governing Body
St Matthew's RC High School



Daniel Copley
CSEL/CEO
Emmaus CAT