

December 2021

**Dear Parents and Carers** 

As the end of 2021 fast approaches, we are writing to thank you all for your continued support of our schools and staff, during what has been the most challenging yet rewarding of years. The Autumn term began with as 'normal' a return to education as we could offer in these unprecedented times. In recent weeks, our schools have been celebrating the season of Advent in a variety of ways and it has been humbling to see the charitable work that has taken place across the MAC. We are so fortunate that our young people, families and staff are so generous and really do live out the Gospel values.

Since the formation of Emmaus Catholic Multi Academy Company (MAC) in February of this year, we have not yet been able to come together, in person, as a community of 10 schools and central team. Nevertheless, much is being done across the MAC to develop closer working practices, supporting one another on our Emmaus journey, and sharing some of the excellent practice that is taking place. It has been wonderful to see our dedicated and talented staff working increasingly closely together across our ten schools to serve our children and young people in the best way possible. It has also been wonderful to see and hear about the hard work and achievements of our pupils. We have so much to be proud of and celebrate.

Emmaus MAC involves us all in a shared commitment to providing the best possible Catholic education to the children in our care. As an employer, we are also committed to supporting our staff to develop and grow, providing opportunities for collaboration and secondment where opportunities arise. We will therefore be holding our first MAC Inset day of the academic year on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. This is being organised by our Principals, in conjunction with our CSEL, and will focus on curriculum development. Principals will send out individual reminders about this early in the New Year.

On behalf of the Directors, we wish you and your families a peaceful and holy Christmas season and we look forward to the New Year with hope and confidence.

Jo Gríffin Chair of the Board Suzanne Horan Catholic Senior Executive Leader

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