

HTP/LGR

16 January 2012

Dear Parent/Carer

Important updates regarding St Catherine's Catholic High School (SCCHS)

Over recent weeks you have received a number of communications from me in relation to developments at school. I know that there has been considerable uncertainty about the future direction of the school, and I am very grateful for the continuing support that you have shown. I now have two pieces of information to update you on:

Leadership at SCCHS

The first is to advise you that I have taken the decision to retire from my position as Head of St Catherine's Catholic High School from the end of this term, 10 February 2012. This is not a sudden decision but one I have been planning over a period of time in light of the changes and developments in the school's future. I would like to personally thank you all for your support during my time here, and I can genuinely say that I have enjoyed every moment of working with our wonderful students and staff.

My retirement has created a need for support at senior leadership level and I am very pleased to inform you that Michael Gosling, the current Principal at Trinity Academy, will become Executive Principal over both schools. He and some of his team will be supporting both staff and students at SCCHS over the coming months to ensure that the school continues to improve. Naturally I am very sad to be leaving colleagues and students, but I feel that this is the right and most effective course of action. Not only will this ensure that the school continues to do the best for your child, it also provides an opportunity for you to learn more about Trinity Academy. My remaining weeks will be spent working with Michael to ensure that this transition is as smooth and effective as possible.

Transfer of students

We now also have a firm arrangement in place that means that all students will remain as part of the school until **September 2013**. I am delighted about this as it means that we will remain a vibrant and improving school until the official closure date of August 2013. Our staff, with the support of Trinity Academy, will be working hard to make sure students receive the best possible education and are prepared for moving to a new school. You will have the opportunity to meet Michael and his team in the near future at an information evening he is planning.

As part of this process and to ensure that there is parental choice, Calderdale Council will be issuing a letter to all parents/carers to explain more about the opportunity for your son/daughter to move to other schools, if you so wish. This will include information on the application process and how the local authority can support you in making an informed choice as well as the opportunity to visit other schools.

Once again may I thank you for your support during my time at SCCHS. I would like to also wish all our students the very best for their future education – I am sure they will all continue to excel and succeed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tricia Sheard', written in a cursive style.

Tricia Sheard
Headteacher