



St Polycarp's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs. P.M. Best B.Ed M.A. NPQH

Governors' Update

19th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last weeks of the summer term are always a mixture of joy and sadness. We have the joy and exuberance of the children completing their school year and the excitement of the summer activities, and of course all the wonderful things to look forward to in their next school year. We have as well the sadness of having to say goodbye to year 6.

The governors are always so impressed with how amazing all the staff are at Saint Polycarp's. We are deeply grateful for all the support that is offered for the children. We also want to thank you all for everything you do to help the school, especially the amazing work of the PTA. The school and its community would not be the same without this work. We hope that you all have a good rest during the summer holiday.

One of my favourite governor activities is to see the presentations from the year 6 children about what they want to do in life. These presentations are always uplifting, always insightful. It is great to see the passion that the children have as they leave Saint Polycarp's and the huge variety of things that the children want to do.



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Extension to the Teaching Hall

We also have our own exciting project that will be completed in the new school year. We are going to extend the teaching hall and make it into a more flexible space. This will allow more space for collective worship, it will provide storage for the musical instruments so that the hall space can be shared more easily. We will add a toilet and kitchenette area, which will allow the hall to be rented adding to the income from the school. As school budgets become tighter and tighter this will help enormously to balance the books.

The picture shows the hall extension, viewed from above the year 1 classrooms. The hall will extend out over the totem pole area to the edge of the year 4 classrooms. We are immensely lucky that the academy trust have been able to find close to £1m to invest in this project. Without this we could not afford this building work. We will ourselves have the challenge next term of raising the funds for the equipment for the inside of the hall. Current estimates are that we will need about £70,000 for this. While this is a lot of money, if we each add a little bit, we will soon achieve this target.

Please can I encourage everyone who can afford it to pay £10 a month into the governor fund. This will help us greatly in our fundraising activities.



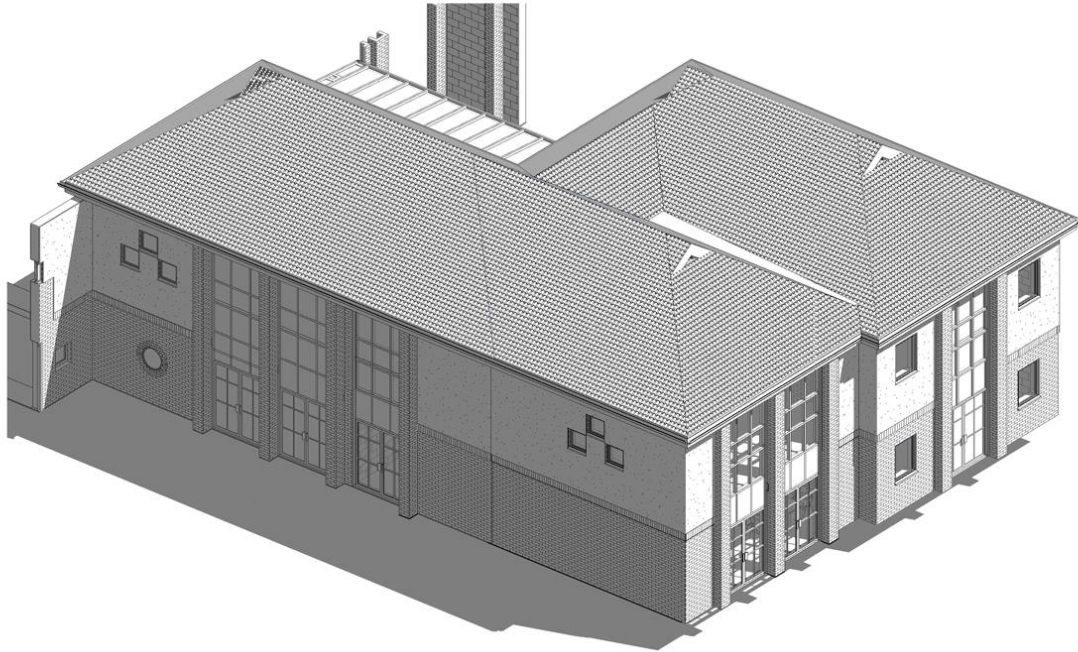
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The Xavier Catholic Education Trust

I am conscious that quite a few parents will not know so much about the Xavier Trust as we have been members of the trust for quite a number of years. Xavier is one of two academy trusts for the Arundel and Brighton diocese. Soon all Catholic schools will be supported by one of these educational trusts. The CEO, James Kibble, mentioned in his recent letter, Xavier now has over 10,000 children and students. The trust continues to grow. The staff in Xavier are an immensely helpful and supportive group of leaders and directors. We have been so lucky to have been a part of the trust for 5 years. The support that schools receive is very much better than the support provided by a local education authority. We can more easily access high quality specialist advice, and the trust has been



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structured to help schools by centralising things that can be streamlined (for example some of the policies and the baseline website layout). Other aspects of the school, such as the uniform policy are decisions that are made at the school level. We believe that the balance between central and local decision making is excellent and we are so delighted to be part of the academy trust. Improvement projects, such as the upgrade to the teaching hall, would not be possible without the trust.

As the long-awaited summer holiday arrives, I want to wish you a peaceful and wonderful summer holiday. I hope that you find time to relax and enjoy these lovely summer days. Collective prayers for the weather may be needed, but the foreseeable days do look to be something a bit more akin to summer. We will hope for the best.

God bless you and your family,

Martin Parr

Martin Parr
Chair of Governors



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