

4th July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Chief Executive Officer of Plymouth CAST. I have worked in Catholic education for the last twenty eight years, as a teacher, headteacher and most recently for a Catholic educational charity. I'm looking forward very much to the challenge of my new role.

My focus as I begin is on the present and the future, more than the past. I know there have been some difficult times in some of our schools in recent years but I want to work with you to ensure that the education your child is receiving today is as good as it can be: a Catholic education with a compelling vision for human flourishing inspired by the Gospel, committed to high academic standards.

Catholic schools are part of the mission of the Church and we have rich resources to draw upon to help us understand that mission. With the encouragement of the Plymouth CAST Board of Directors, I will be leading a review of our vision and values with a view to producing a fresh statement of what we do and how we do it. This in turn will lead to a refresh of our priorities, bringing renewed energy and focus to everybody who is involved with Plymouth CAST.

My intention is to produce a vision and values consultation document for the beginning of the new academic year in September. I have asked your headteacher to organise the best way to gather your views about what you think we need to work on to make your child's school even better. Your views and the views of your children, our pupils, are very important.

The intention is to conduct this consultation at pace and collect all the feedback by mid-October. This will allow me to go to the Board meeting on 26 October with a set of recommendations about how we express our vision and values and to establish our priorities for the future.

Before taking up my post, I managed to visit twelve of our schools and was very impressed by the levels of commitment to our mission I found there. I met many of your children and was delighted to see their enthusiasm and how well they were doing. I will be visiting all our schools as soon as possible.

Our sole purpose as a Trust is to provide an excellent education for your child. We want all our children to be safe, happy and to flourish academically and socially in schools with values and a moral framework based on the Gospel.

I look forward very much to hearing your views in the months ahead as we seek to bring renewed purpose to our mission for the sake of all our children and young people.

Yours faithfully



Raymond Friel
CEO, Plymouth CAST