St Carlo Acutis Catholic Education Trust

1st November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share an update regarding the Diocesan academy structure.

From 1 November, **The Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust** will be renamed **The St Carlo Acutis Catholic Education Trust**. This new name marks an exciting new chapter in our journey and reflects our shared ambition to inspire faith, nurture excellence, and transform the lives of children and young people across all our schools.

As you may be aware, the Diocese has been working closely with the Department for Education regarding the proposed merger of the existing Catholic Multi Academy Trusts. Subject to final approval from the Department for Education, this will eventually bring together **46 schools** into a single Catholic Education Trust. Our current Trust of **16 schools** will therefore become part of a larger, stronger partnership serving communities across the Diocese.

While our name is changing, the foundations of our Trust remain firmly in place. Inspired by our Catholic faith and shared values, we will continue to work together to help every child and young person flourish, providing opportunities for them to grow, succeed and make a positive difference in the world.

The move towards a larger Trust will provide even greater opportunities for collaboration between schools. By working together, we will be able to share expertise, develop our staff, strengthen educational provision and enhance opportunities for pupils. At the same time, it is important to emphasise that each school will continue to retain its own unique identity, traditions, strengths and close relationship with its parish and local community. This is an established strength of our current model, and we are committed to ensuring that the distinctive identity, character and traditions of each school continue to be celebrated and enhanced as part of our shared future.

We recognise that this is an important period of change and development. As plans progress and further decisions are made, we will continue to keep you fully informed. We are committed to ensuring that parents, carers, staff and governors receive regular updates throughout this process.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools and our shared mission of providing a high-quality Catholic education for every child.

Yours faithfully,

Darren Beardsley
Chief Executive Officer
St Carlo Acutis Catholic Education Trust