

# St Edmund's Catholic School Local Governing Body

*St Edmund's Catholic School, Old Charlton Road, Dover CT16 2QB*

## A vision for St Edmund's

22/06/17

On Friday 16 June 2017 the governors met with the school's Leadership Team to look ahead and agree our joint vision for the next few years.

Looking back at the school's recent past, we have moved a long way forward from the dark days of early 2013 when the school was placed in special measures by Ofsted. A huge amount of work and effort since then has meant the school is in a much healthier state, with a bright and assured future.

However, a legacy of that inspection report lives on in that pupil numbers entering the school at age 11 dropped significantly in the aftermath of the report. This resulted in a much-reduced budget and a need to reduce the number of staff. Similarly, our small 6<sup>th</sup> form is not viable, either in terms of what it offers students or financially. Some tough decisions have had to be taken, namely:

- A proposal to close the 6<sup>th</sup> form (but with a determination to offer strong signposting to alternative provision elsewhere)
- A restructure of staffing so that the school is on a sound financial footing

Our discussion last Friday enabled us to shape a vision for the next few years for a school which we believe will be highly effective in meeting pupil-need and addressing the needs of the community. The main features of St Edmund's over the next five years will be

- A small, successful, popular school catering for pupils aged 11 – 16. We anticipate a roll of no more than about 750 pupils.....our current intake is around 120 pupils per year but we see that rising
- A school with a reputation for good quality teaching, categorised by Ofsted as at least "good"
- Quality support and advice for pupils moving into post-16 education, based on strong links with local 6<sup>th</sup> form providers
- A school rooted in its Catholic ethos, where pupils from all backgrounds are welcomed and nurtured
- The small size of the school being a particular strength: pupils are known and affirmed by staff, their needs identified and met
- A close-knit, strong community where pupils and parents feel valued and supported

St Edmund's has determined staff and governors...determined to do our best for the pupils in our care and for those joining us in the future. We're a school with a realistic understanding of our needs and goals and a determination to aim high. We welcome those wishing to join us on this journey: our strength is in the individuals who together contribute their many skills and talents to making ours a vibrant community.

John Philpott (Chair, St Edmund's Local Governing Body)