



5 July 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians

Re: Academy Sponsorship of a Primary School

This is to let you know the good news that New Hall has been invited to become the first independent school in the country to sponsor a state primary school which is seeking to become an Academy under the new Government scheme. I am pleased to let you know that the New Hall Governing Body has decided to respond positively to this request for assistance from the Department for Education and the Governing Body of Messing-cum-Inworth Primary School. In the spirit of the founding Religious Community, who were pioneers in education, we have welcomed this opportunity to create a new type of educational partnership in order to share our educational expertise and experience with a school in need in our local community, for the benefit of children's learning.

At New Hall, we will always have a great appetite for development and improvement, and the enhancement of teaching and learning is at the heart of all we do. Therefore, when we were approached recently by the Department for Education and invited to take this pioneering move to sponsor – in educational terms – this small primary school in our local area that is in need of support, we considered this carefully. You may have followed reports in the media of outstanding independent schools being called on to 'share their DNA' through sponsorship of a school. New Hall has been identified as such a school by the Department for Education, as a result of our three outstanding inspections last academic year. At New Hall, we are proud to have taken the decision to explore the sponsorship of the primary school, which would represent a valuable part of the public benefit that we provide as a charitable organisation.

Messing-cum-Inworth Primary School, 15 miles north east of Chelmsford, is a rural village school, with a small number of pupils and staff; there are currently 40 pupils on roll. We believe schools like this are hugely important to village life and, over the years, we have enjoyed working with a number of local schools. Until recently, Messing School had an exceptional reputation in the local area. However, a recent challenging Ofsted report and uncertainty over the leadership of the school has dented their reputation. The school was put into Special Measures and subsequently experienced a significant fall in roll. Despite this, the children in the school are happy and the school enjoys the support of a dedicated Governing Body and staff, who are all working hard for the future security and success of the school. I believe, with our support, the school could once again flourish.

Catholic independent boarding (7-18) & day (3-18) school

Principal: Mrs K A Jeffrey MA(Oxon) PGCE BA(Div) MA(EdMg) NPQH

Tel 01245 467 588 Fax 01245 464 348 Email admin@newhallschool.co.uk Website www.newhallschool.co.uk

I am therefore delighted to announce that it has been agreed by both schools' Governing Bodies that a partnership will commence from September 2012. Messing School will become an Academy School, early in 2013, sponsored by New Hall School Trust via an Academy Trust run by New Hall. Messing School will not become an extension of New Hall; it is important to everyone involved that the schools retain their individuality.

The sponsorship does not involve a financial commitment on the part of the sponsor school, since the primary school would be directly funded by the Department for Education and has its own staffing and Governing Body. This project therefore brings no financial risk to New Hall School; we are not required to invest financially. What we will be providing is expertise from our exceptional teaching and ancillary staff. I have no doubt that such a partnership between the two schools will be mutually beneficial. A small number of New Hall staff are looking forward to spending some time each term with staff from Messing-cum-Inworth Primary School, to share best practice and teaching techniques. We already have a tradition of engaging professionally with other local schools, such as through our links with St John Payne School in Chelmsford, so this would not involve a significant change in our practice.

We will be writing to parents to keep you informed of developments with this exciting educational project as it unfolds over coming months. It is an honour that New Hall has been identified and chosen for this sponsor role.

Should you have any questions or require any other information about these plans, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Katherine Jeffrey
PRINCIPAL