

Dear Parents/Carers (of students in The Priory School Trust),

I am pleased to announce that the governors of Thomas Adams School have decided for the school to join our Trust. The school is situated in Wem, and has around 1300 students, with a sixth form and a boarding provision. This will mean our Trust will have four schools, and 3000 students; including Thomas Adams (age 11-18), Coleham School (age 4-11), St Martins School (age 3-16) and The Priory School (age 11-16).

Our trust is rather unusual in that it comprises students from nursery age to sixth form and it is our educational belief that collaborating with educational professionals throughout the Early Years, Primary, Secondary and Higher Education is hugely beneficial for our staff and children, and for Education in general. We can learn much from each other with regard to preparing children for the next stage in their educational journey and supporting pupil's personal development and wellbeing so that they are equipped to make an effective contribution to society when they leave us.

Currently the three Heads meet regularly to enable sharing of best practice – this principle is at the heart of our ethos - that each school gives and receives support and every child is at a great school.

- The Head of English and Maths at St Martins and Priory have been working together to secure better outcomes, through a coaching programme that has enabled collaborative planning and mutual support.
- The Head of Coleham School has worked with the primary school section at St Martins.
- We have supported the school in enabling and managing the significant growth in the number of students wishing to be educated at St Martins - numbers have risen significantly since the Trust began – we are full in year 7 and 8 next year, and very nearly full in year 9.
- Through the work of the Finance Director, we have secured over £1m in funding for capital works for the school.

We have a central Trust Office for Finance, ICT and HR which generates financial saving, supports each school and has allowed Headteachers and school leaders more time to drive forward with School Improvement and focus on what is important - the pupils, the staff and Teaching and Learning.

The Board of Trustees believes significant opportunities for further school improvement will develop given this growth. This will mean the Trust will grow to having 3,000 students in it, allowing further financial savings to reinvest directly into individual school budgets. Our hope is that other primary and secondary schools with links to our schools may also look to join the Trust in the future.

Whilst sharing a common context, all schools in the Trust have retained their own identity – their name, their uniform, their ethos. This means schools retain autonomy for the vast majority of their operational and strategic decisions but contribute to and share the ethos of the Trust. We want to

develop confident, independent and resilient young people, who value hard work, join in to the wider school life and who are good people; ultimately, we want all of our students to have choices when they leave us and that they are ready to make their contribution to society.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M J Barratt', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

M J Barratt
Executive Principal