1st June 2020

Dear Stakeholders / Members of the Local Community,

My name is Colin Crehan, the Headteacher at Holy Trinity Catholic school, Oakley Road, Small Heath, Birmingham B10 0AX. It is clear that these past months have been extremely challenging. Lockdown and isolation have affected us all in similar and more personal ways. We have found closing our doors to the majority of our pupils and local members of our community to be extremely difficult. You will all have your stories to tell and I hope that if good is to come out of this it will be that the bonds of community our strengthened and that we all learn that we are stronger together.

I am writing to inform about some positive news for our school and would welcome a dialogue with you. **For the next 4 weeks and ending on the 28th June, we are formally consulting with school stakeholders and members of the local community**. A large majority of you will have already been aware of these plans informally over recent months and we have spent time discussing questions that you have had. Prior to lockdown, the school has received a commitment from the Local Authority for a substantial amount of money to improve its facilities. Over the past year, we have supported the Local Authority to place some additional pupils with us due to a population bulge and a shortage of secondary places across the city. In return and because of our ageing and hugely deteriorating premises, the Local Authority is investing to improve the educational and social life chances of our pupils and equally to regenerate an aspect of this part of the city to enhance the community for all. Academy Directors, Local Governors and School Leaders are delighted by this opportunity, as our school has encountered real hardship in recent times and a genuine fear around buildings lasting and being viable in the medium and longer term. A higher proportion of our children are disadvantaged compared to the national average and we feel it to be a moral purpose to ensure that all youngsters achieve the very best standard of education. Now we are proudly sitting as a fully subscribed school with some of the best GCSE results in our local area. It is our ambition that this excellence is sustained with the pupils in Small Heath having the best and highest standard of education in the years to come.

**How will this money be spent?**

**Please see attached supporting Information Booklet and Presentation Slides with Architectural Drawings.**

A significant proportion of funding is planned to be spent on the restoration and refurbishment of existing buildings. In addition, it is proposed that a modest sized one story building will be built in the St Catherine’s area of school, taking the place of an unused and overgrown part of the grounds. This will be a new teaching and inclusion support facility. A bonus to this work will be that the trees that have caused problems to residents in the past will be trimmed back and the surrounding area given a good tidy up. In line with Department for Education (DFE) guidelines, it is proposed that a new Sports Hall will be built in our main playground. This will be one storey and will be the first time that children of this school will enjoy this entitlement and privilege. Again, an added bonus of this work will be that existing problems in our perimeter is improved for residents and school. As we have done in the past, it would be lovely to welcome our local residents into school to enjoy this wonderful new build as part of our lettings programme.

In different circumstances, we would really like to have invited you into school to discuss this in person and to answer any questions that you may have. I hope that this can happen in time, if social distancing rules are modified. We value and welcome your feedback and any questions, please contact Geraldine McLeish either via e-mail to GMcLeish@holytrc.bham.sch.uk or by telephone on 0121 772 0184 to arrange a conversation with the Headteacher or another member of the Project Management Team. If you would like hard copies printing of the supporting Information Booklet and the additional presentation slides, do not hesitate to contact us. We will endeavour to provide a response to all queries by Monday 13th July.

To conclude, I wish you and your families the very best in the coming weeks as we all adjust to a new way of life.

Yours sincerely,

*C Crehan*

Mr C Crehan (Headteacher)