



PRESS RELEASE

RESTRUCTURED BOARD ANNOUNCED FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TRUST

A restructured board has been formed for Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust (NPCAT), which is responsible for the education of more than 11,700 children and young people across Teesside and North Yorkshire, including the city of York.

Made up of four women and four men, the board brings many years of experience in the education sector as well as in fields including business, finance, the NHS, the police, human resources and the Church.

They will be responsible for overseeing governance at NPCAT's 38 schools in the northern, central and coastal deaneries of the Diocese of Middlesbrough, which include two sixth forms and the T6 Football Academy, run in an exclusive partnership with Middlesbrough Football Club.

The restructured board members are:

Canon John Loughlin

Born in Middlesbrough, Canon John was ordained in 1984 has more than 40 years' experience in school chaplaincy and serving on school governing bodies. He is the former chair of St Hilda's Multi Academy Trust.

Karen Siedle BEd (Hons) CTC, NPQH

Now retired after 33 years as teacher, headteacher, diocesan inspector, deputy CEO, Karen was also interim CEO of St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust, which runs schools in the southern deanery of the Diocese of Middlesbrough.

Claire Druery BA (Hons), Chartered FCIPD

Claire is chief people officer at Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust, a 30-school multi academy trust in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. She is an experienced HR professional with more than 20 years' experience in strategic HR and leadership across public and private sectors.

Peter Hawkins

Business owner Peter has served on primary and secondary school governing bodies for more than 30 years, the last seven as chair for two schools. He is a former board member and chair of the Finance and Resources Committee of St Hilda's Catholic Academy Trust and a former board member and chair of friendly society Tees Mutual.

Andrew McMillan PGDip, BA (Hons)

A retired senior police officer with 25 years' service in London and the North-East, Andrew brings experience in delivering leadership and crisis management training across government and the broader public sector, with particular expertise in the assessment and management of risk.

Jacqueline Gallon BA (Hons), MAAT, ACMA, CGMA

Jacqueline is a retired chartered management accountant with extensive finance and budgeting experience in chemical, defence and fast-moving consumer goods companies.

Mark J Dias MA, BSc (Hons), Chartered FCIPD

Mark is a semi-retired HR director who is currently group non-executive director and People Committee chair at University Hospitals Tees. He is in formation for the Permanent Diaconate within the Diocese of Middlesbrough. A former Cleveland Police officer, he was commended for standing up for equality and integrity in policing.

Audrey Kirby MA, BSc (Hons)

A retired nurse, Audrey's roles included deputy director for nursing at South Tees NHS Foundation Trust and nursing and workforce project leadership at NHS England. She is currently care and welfare officer for the Diocese of Middlesbrough.

A spokesperson for the Diocese of Middlesbrough said: "These strategic appointments reinforce the diocese's dedication to shaping future generations through high-quality Catholic education, rooted in the values of faith, love and service."

Meanwhile, the board of directors has announced the resignation of Hugh Hegarty as CEO and accounting officer of NPCAT. We thank him for his service and wish him well for the future.

Current NPCAT assistant CEO Nicky Jamalizadeh has temporarily assumed the role of accounting officer and the transition to an interim CEO arrangement has already begun.

The board of directors has engaged a leading recruitment agency to coordinate the search and selection process for a highly qualified interim chief executive officer.

The appointment is expected to be finalised by the end of the month (June).

<https://www.nigelwright.com/uk/vacancies/nicholas-postgate-catholic-academy-trust/interim-ceo-410507>

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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT DIOCESE OF MIDDLESBROUGH COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER MICHAEL McGEARY ON 07967 023083.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Images of the new board members can be downloaded using the link below, which is valid until 8pm on June 15. Please ask if you need access after this.

<https://we.tl/t-aAVV55okNU>

About NPCAT

NPCAT oversees 38 strong, progressive and outstanding schools across Teesside and North Yorkshire, including the city of York, delivering high-quality Catholic education to more than 11,700 pupils. Guided by our faith and a commitment to excellence, NPCAT nurtures the academic, spiritual and personal growth of every child in its care.

For more information or media inquiries, please contact Michael McGeary on 07967 023083 or mcgearymedia@gmail.com.