



Department  
for Education

Richard Coneron  
Regional Schools Commissioner's office for the  
West Midlands  
Cheylesmore House  
Coventry  
CV1 2WT

Helen Quinn  
The Romero Catholic Academy  
Sent by email to h.quinn@romeromac.com

02 December 2021

Dear Helen,

### **Regional Delivery Directorate and Academies and Maintained Schools Directorate – Trust Meeting**

Thank you for meeting with me, Raj Chagger, and Charlotte Taylor on 23 November 2021, to discuss The Romero Catholic Academy's successes, challenges and plans for the future. I also want to take this opportunity to reiterate my thanks for all your work during this particularly challenging time.

In the meeting we discussed the ongoing impact of Covid-19 and how your trust's schools have worked collaboratively, including the work to adjust curriculums to support pupils' needs and the focus on specialised subjects at Cardinal Wiseman; ongoing and anticipated Ofsted inspections and the preparation activity for these, including seeking external validation from system leaders as well as building internal expertise. We also discussed strategies for addressing absence and persistent absence; staffing, including ongoing recruitment challenges, the Early Career Framework, and Romero's efforts to support staff wellbeing; the trust's governance structure and financial strategy; and the proposed future merger of Romero with other local Catholic MACs.

Considering the particular challenge the trust faces in consolidating and securing improvements to Ofsted judgements, we agreed the following action:

- To hold a follow-up conversation once Ofsted outcomes for St Patrick's, Good Shepherd, and Cardinal Wiseman are known; reviewing findings against the trust's own assessments and how this will be reflected in working practices – to be arranged following receipt of Ofsted reports.

I note that you have already provided attendance and persistent absence data, and that biographies have been added the trust website. Thank you for actioning these requests promptly.

You asked if there were any options to make SCA more predictable to enable you to plan for and carry out much needed large scale capital projects requiring a longer period. Having investigated this, could you please submit your query via [this link](#) to enable the dedicated capital team to respond to you directly.

My team and I look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Richard Coneron', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard Coneron  
Regional Schools Commissioner's office for the West Midlands