Press Release

Two Esteemed Christian Brothers Schools Join Laetare Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

Date: Monday 2nd June 2025

St Ambrose College, Altrincham, and St Anselm's College, Birkenhead — two highly respected Catholic Grammar Schools founded by the Congregation of Christian Brothers — have formally joined the Laetare Catholic Multi-Academy Trust as of 1st June 2025. This significant development marks a new chapter in the schools' shared mission to provide outstanding Catholic education rooted in the values of Blessed Edmund Rice.

The Laetare CMAT is a new family of Religious Order schools committed to delivering high-quality Catholic education rooted in Gospel values and faithful to the unique charism of the founding Religious Order. The Trust brings together Religious Order schools united in their commitment to academic excellence, faith formation, and social justice. The Laetare CMAT is the only national Catholic Multi-Academy Trust and warmly welcomes both schools into its growing family.

Mr Andrew Bridson, Interim CEO of Laetare Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, commented:

> *"We are absolutely delighted to welcome St Ambrose College and St Anselm's College into the Laetare Trust. These are schools with proud traditions and a clear Catholic ethos, and we are honoured to be working in partnership with their communities to help realise an even stronger future. Their shared commitment to the values of the Christian Brothers aligns perfectly with our Trust's vision of joyful, faith-filled learning and opportunity for all."*

Brother Dominic Sassi (Trustee), Mr Andrew Bridson (Laetare CEO), Mr Dermot Rainey (principal), Dr Peter Goodwin (Chair of Governors)

Mr Dermot Rainey, Principal of St Ambrose College, said:

> *"Joining Laetare is an exciting step forward for St Ambrose College. It allows us to collaborate more deeply with like-minded Religious Order schools and benefit from shared expertise while preserving the unique charism of Edmund Rice education. Our mission remains the same: to form young men of faith, integrity and compassion."*

Max & Henry (Executive Prefects), Mrs Serena Cubbin (Headteacher), Bother Dominic Sassi (Trustee), Mrs Pam Green (Chair of Governors), Mr Andrew Bridson (Laetare CEO)

Mrs Serena Cubbin, Headteacher of St Anselm's College, added:

> *"We are proud of our heritage and excited about our future. Joining Laetare gives us the opportunity to enrich our provision, widen our support networks, and further embed Gospel values at the heart of everything we do. It is a move that strengthens our commitment to excellence in all areas."*

Br Dominic Sassi, Trustee of the Congregation of Christian Brothers, said:

> *"This partnership is a natural progression for our schools. Laetare shares a deep understanding of the Christian Brothers' mission and brings a forward-thinking approach to Catholic education. I have every confidence this step will enrich the lives of students, staff and the wider community."*

Both colleges will retain their distinctive identities while embracing the collaborative opportunities and strategic support available within the Trust. Together with Laetare, they will continue to nurture the faith, character and academic potential of every young person entrusted to their care.

For media inquiries, please contact:
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Notes to Editors:

- St Ambrose College and St Anselm's College are Catholic Boys' Grammar Schools founded by the Congregation of Christian Brothers.
- St Ambrose College and St Anselm's College both have a strong tradition of academic achievement and spiritual formation.

- The Laetare Catholic Multi Academy Trust serves schools founded by Religious Order across England.
- Edmund Rice was the founder of the Christian Brothers, whose legacy continues in the educational mission of both Colleges.