



## Damehood for Academy Trust Leader



DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

**The founding Chief Executive of Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust is amongst 61 people being recognised in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours list.**

Maura Regan was made a Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (DBE) in recognition of her outstanding leadership and service to education in the region and nationally.

Maura was raised in Fishburn, a miner's daughter. She began her teaching career in London teaching History and RE, returning to the North East to take a pastoral role before becoming Deputy Head Pastoral and subsequently Principal of Carmel College.

Maura, as the architect of Carmel Education Trust, became its founding CEO having led the successful transformation of Carmel College from a single outstanding College to the lead school in a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). The Trust was recognised as a leading organisation nationally. In line with Bishop Robert's plan for the Diocese three Trusts amalgamated to form the Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust, with Maura as its CEO, comprising 28 schools both primary and secondary. It will become a Trust of 35 schools by 2022. All schools in the Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust have been rated as good or better on inspection after joining the Trust.

Maura was awarded the OBE in the 2015 New Year's Honours. She is also a Deputy Lieutenant (DL) for County Durham.

In her role as an NLE (National Leader for Education) Maura and her Leadership Team have supported schools across the region and nationally from all phases.

Carmel College is one of the top performing schools nationally and is a Maths Hub, leads a Science Learning Partnership and is a designated Research School. Carmel College has a long history of Initial Teacher Training.

Maura works with the DfE and has supported a number of Trusts nationally through the Tailored Support and Trust Support programmes.

She is a Trustee of Schools North East, Director of The Emmanuel Foundation Trust and a Governor of Durham School.

Maura is regularly invited to address national audiences on a range of educational initiatives, more especially on the benefits and complexities of establishing and leading a Multi-Academy Trust in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity, solidarity and support for the common good. She is a keynote speaker for the CES National Executive Leader programme.

Maura is a member of the National Advisory Group looking at Recruitment & Retention among teachers.

She is also a member of the sub-group working with the DfE on the Opportunity North East Programme established by the Secretary of State.

Maura is passionate about making a difference and believes that 'every child should be given every opportunity to succeed'.

She has championed the Just Change Campaign on behalf of Citizens UK (Tyne & Wear Division). This campaign is to ensure that free school meal children receive their full entitlement.

Maura Regan, DBE OBE DL adds:

"I am proud to be the CEO of Bishop Hogarth CET and for the opportunities it has afforded me. Having been in education since 1979, it is a genuine pleasure to have had a positive impact on the lives of so many children and staff over the years. It is a great honour and immensely humbling to be recognised in this way."

**Ends**