



Dear Parents,

PURCHASE OF VAUXBELETS BY BLANCHELANDE COLLEGE TRUST

Ever since the founding of Blanchelande College in 1992 – following the departure of the Sisters of Mercy who ran a school of the same name – Blanchelande has been, at its heart, a school committed to serving families, and in that spirit you should be the first to hear some wonderful news for the future of the College.

Since 1999, Blanchelande College has been located at the Vauxbelets estate, once home of Vauxbelets College, a boys' Catholic school founded at the start of the twentieth century by the French De La Salle Brothers. Since inviting us to make the Vauxbelets our home, the Brothers have been supportive and generous landlords, giving us the benefit of a rolling lease on the condition of Blanchelande being run as a Catholic school.

Although the old lease gave us security, with the passing of time we have become more conscious of the benefits of the College owning the property and to that end we have undertaken negotiations with the Brothers. **We are delighted to confirm that those negotiations have been successful and we have, today, purchased the Vauxbelets estate, completing the purchase for a price of £1.4m.**

Outwardly, for parents and students, the position remains as before with the site continuing to be used for the provision of education with a Catholic ethos by the College, except for those parts of the site used by commercial businesses. The provision of Catholic education, which plays so positive a part in the diversity of choice within Guernsey's educational system, is at the very heart of the vision of both the Brothers and of The Blanchelande College Trust.

The purchase brings the strong benefits of permanence and of course will be a more sound basis for effective fundraising for the further improvement of our educational facilities. Parents, former students and other supporters of Blanchelande regularly make generous donations to enable improvements to the physical development of the estate, and they will now do so knowing that the College has the security of ownership. Financially, the agreement has been carefully considered on both sides. The Brothers have agreed to receive payment over a ten-year period.

We would like to acknowledge the commitment of the Brothers to securing the future of Blanchelande and to Catholic education on Guernsey. In an important sense the memory of the De La Salle Brothers will always remain part of the landscape of Les Vauxbelets and Blanchelande College. The Sacred Heart Garden, the Vauxbelets College War Memorial, the De La Salle Hall (in which we display their coat of arms) and of course the Brothers' cemetery are permanent reminders of their role as founders: Blanchelande College is very much a fruit of their rich legacy.

This is a moment of celebration for the entire Blanchelande College community, past and present parents, students, staff, governors and trustees. As always, we are grateful to you as parents for your ongoing support and encouragement, which will ensure that the benefits of a Blanchelande education may be enjoyed by generations of families to come.

Kind regards,

Robert O'Brien
Principal

t 01481 237200
e office@blanchelande.sch.gg
w www.blanchelande.co.uk
a Blanchelande College LBG,
Les Vauxbelets, St. Andrews,
Guernsey GY6 8XY