

# **THE VAUGHAN PARENTS' ACTION GROUP**



**Please join us at a**

# **CANDLELIT VIGIL**

**Wednesday 2 February 2011  
6.15 - 8pm**

**The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School  
89 Addison Road  
W14 8BZ**

Further details may be found here:  
<http://sites.google.com/site/vaughanparentsactiongroup/home>

My dear Parents, Friends and Supporters of the Vaughan,

Members of the Vaughan Parents' Action Group have asked me to write to encourage you to back their efforts to save the School. The VPAG, part of the Vaughan Parents' Association, has been set up by a number of parents worried about the radical changes the Diocese of Westminster has made to the School's Governing Body. The Diocese's actions have resulted in the following sorry state of affairs:

- We have been left without a single Foundation Governor who has a child at the School. **Parents are now shamefully unrepresented.**
- The Diocese has appointed its own Director of Education, Paul Barber, to the Vaughan's Governing Body. We insist that his appointment creates a clear conflict of interest. It also deprives the many other Catholic schools in the Diocese of Mr Barber's attention. He is a Governor of none of these, not even of those schools which are currently underperforming. **Just why has Mr Barber been appointed to the Vaughan – the most successful school in the Diocese?**
- Mr Barber and the other Diocesan appointees have installed a Chairman of Governors who is already Chairman at a neighbouring Catholic secondary school, and Vice-Chairman at a nearby Catholic primary school. This gentleman actively supports Diocesan attempts to rush through the appointment of a new Head before the legal status of the Governing Body, still before the courts, has been resolved. He has refused to allow parents to use the School Hall for meetings. **Besides his obvious conflicts of interest, how can this new Chairman possibly give the Vaughan School the care, the understanding and the support it needs and deserves?**

The VPAG believes – and I agree whole-heartedly – that the Diocese wants to change the way the Vaughan works, to dilute its distinctive ethos and to reduce it to the status of a local school. **This will stop our School providing a first-class religious, academic and cultural education to young people of all abilities and backgrounds from across London.**

The VPAG asks all Parents and Friends of the School to demonstrate their support at a Candlelit Vigil (details overleaf). We will sing hymns and say prayers for the good estate of the Vaughan School.

**I endorse this invitation very warmly. We have to show the Diocese just how determined we are to prevent the School being changed irrevocably and beyond recognition.** Quite simply, we will not allow the hard work, the devotion and the love that so many people have invested for so many years to be sacrificed on the altar of fashionable educational theorising. Please come with your Rosary beads and torches, and bring as many friends and family members as you can.

**Like Rome, the Vaughan was not built in a day. But unless we take decisive action NOW, it can and will be destroyed almost overnight.**

With my very best wishes to you all,

Yours sincerely



M A Gormally  
30 January 2011