

Dear

FORMING A MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST – CONSULTATION

I am writing to update you with news about some important developments which are being proposed for West Road Primary and for education in Doncaster, and to give you an opportunity to express your views.

Our school, along with a group of local primary schools, wish to strengthen our collaboration and support each other further to give improved learning opportunities and outcomes for all our young people, and to further raise educational standards. The Governing Board's priority is to enable our school to continue to provide the best education for our students in a time of unprecedented financial cuts whilst protecting our school's ethos and identity, and retaining its individual qualities and strengths.

It is vital in the coming years that the school finds strong partnerships with like-minded schools and similar values to ensure continued excellence in terms of its educational outcomes. Our school wishes to retain its identity but is mindful of what it must do to sustain future improvements; it can only achieve those aims through strong collaboration with other schools.

For these reasons, we are proposing to form what is called a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) which initially would include the following local schools:

- West Road Primary School
- Hungerhill School
- Kirk Sandall Junior and Infant Schools
- Barnby Dun Academy
- Dunsville Primary School

The formal partnership (MAT) would be built on the strong foundations of a successful, informal partnership based on school to school support. The Trust would be known as Brighter Futures Learning Partnership Trust. Each school would retain most of its independence whilst benefitting from being part of the Trust. There would be more opportunities for students and staff to work across the schools, sharing good practice and delivering outstanding learning experiences.

All schools within this partnership will continue to maintain and develop strong links with other local schools, particularly those in the Thorne and Moorends Pyramid.

Working together, with other local schools in a Multi-Academy Trust offers many benefits for our students, school and the wider community. We believe that by working together, we can achieve even greater things and provide a first-class educational experience with more learning opportunities through shared expertise and resource. In the future, other schools may wish to join our MAT. The strength of our school and of our local partners is that we have the skills, vision and resources to serve the best interests our community and to shape our own destiny. We believe that working together as a MAT will enable the schools in the MAT to make a distinctive contribution to school improvement both within and beyond the MAT.

The Governing Board have therefore agreed to consult on forming a MAT with other local schools and the decision to convert West Road Primary School to academy status. The consultation will be open from **1st**



April 2019 to 10th May 2019. It is open to all, including the school's parents, students, staff, and the wider community. We want to hear your views, which the Governing Board will take into account when making its final decision. This letter includes some important information about the new Multi-Academy Trust.

If you have any thoughts, concerns, or feedback regarding our plans to convert to academy status and join Brighter Futures Learning Partnership Trust we ask that you contact Lesley Millard, Project Manager at GLK Solutions. Lesley will answer any questions you may have or arrange for a member of the school or Trust to contact you if further conversations are required. You can contact Lesley on:

Telephone: 07921 645 756

Email: lesleymillard@glkgroup.co.uk

I look forward to receiving your feedback and providing further information regarding West Road Primary School in the future.

Yours sincerely

Kathy Thompson
Headteacher



to learn to grow together

West Road Primary School, West Road, Moorends, Doncaster DN8 4LH

Telephone: 01405 812734 Fax: 01405 740874

www.westrd.doncaster.sch.uk admin@westrd.doncaster.sch.uk

Another important development in Doncaster

We are also working with the local business community, The University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University, other local partner schools, and other interested parties such as Doncaster Chamber of Commerce to develop an 11-18 University Technical College (UTC). It is provisionally planned that this will open in September 2020. You can read more about the UTC at www.doncasterutc.co.uk.

The UTC will be built in the centre of Doncaster (Waterdale) and would become part of our Brighter Future Learning Partnership Trust. The UTC would offer a rich curriculum linked to science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) with a myriad of job and apprenticeship opportunities for students, both during and at the end of their formal education.

We believe that by opening a UTC with STEM specialisms and cutting-edge facilities, our students will have even greater opportunities to access a different type of learning experience, studying adjacent to the best undergraduates and local employers. The specialisms have been chosen to address the skills shortage not just locally, but nationally, and will give students an excellent route into higher education and employment. The curriculum will provide more authentic work-related learning opportunities.

I hope that the attached further information will be useful and answer any questions that you may have about these developments.

Please may I again invite you to contribute your views for the Governing Board to take into account in reaching their decision about these developments.

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This document provides you with further information about the proposed change to forming a Multi-Academy Trust.

Under these proposals:

- Each school will remain focussed on delivering excellent teaching and learning within its local community.
- Each school will continue to have its own Headteacher with less administration and more time to focus on the teaching and learning within their school.
- Each school will continue to have its own local governing board.
- All schools will work together on projects to improve education and learning for all.
- All schools will share administration, technical support and resources to reduce costs and improve effectiveness.
- A Trust Board will exist to provide oversight of the performance of each school and ensure effective and equitable investment in improvements across all schools.

Why change?

We believe a formal partnership will establish a clear vision and systems for working effectively together, as we move to the future, for the benefit of all our children. We are determined to take whatever action is needed to maximise the achievement and personal development of all our children. The Headteachers and Governors of the schools have worked together to establish a shared vision for improvement whilst retaining what we value most in each individual school.

It remains Government policy to encourage all schools to become Academies and part of a larger Trust. Sole converter Academy schools are being encouraged to become part of a MAT by joining an existing MAT or by forming their own MAT. We believe forming our own MAT is the best option because it will enable our schools to:

- Develop first-class education to meet the needs of all.
- Protect our schools' ethos.
- Retain our individual identities, qualities and strengths.
- Maximise the autonomy of each school in shaping their own future.
- Enable and enhance the professional development of all staff.
- Give greater financial control to obtain the best value and greatest choice of services and ensure funding can be maximised.
- Enhance opportunities to network, to support and challenge.

Our Vision:

- To create a learning journey from 3 to 18.
- All learners will be challenged to be responsible and successful 21st Century citizens with a passion for lifelong learning.
- For every child to become confident, capable, resilient, aspirational members of their communities.

We will develop an effective learning community that provides an excellent education for our pupils through highly effective collaboration based upon mutual support and challenge.