



Backwell School

An Ofsted Outstanding School
A National Teaching School

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Dear Parent/Carer

Backwell School and Multi-Academy Trusts: an update

As you are aware, following my letter in October 2016, over the last few months Backwell School has been looking at becoming part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). Part of this process has involved the school and Governors speaking to others in the local area to discuss formalising links and I am pleased to announce that, following votes by their governing bodies, the following primary schools have decided to work with us as part of a MAT:

Federation of West Leigh and Backwell Junior School
Flax Bourton Church of England Primary School
Federation of Hannah More and Grove Schools
Northleaze Church of England Primary School
Yatton Federated Schools

All of us share the view that collaborating together will provide a smooth pathway through education for children and young people in the locality. It will also allow closer working and the sharing of best practice between schools. To maximise such benefits and to increase the capacity of what we might do to support the learning of our students, we have investigated the advantages of our group of schools working in a larger partnership. A model has now emerged, supported by all the schools listed above, for us to form a local hub linked to an existing MAT, the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP).

The LSP is a MAT based in Portishead and is comprised of six Ofsted Outstanding or Good schools; Gordano School, High Down Infant and Junior Schools, St Marys CEVA Primary School, St Peter's CoE Primary School and Portishead Primary School. These schools share our commitment to a locally-based model which preserves the autonomy and ethos of each school involved and puts students at the centre of all decisions. They feel, as we do, that being part of a larger organisation will allow us to retain our local focus while benefitting from the sharing of expertise and support across both Primary and Secondary phases.

We are now beginning a process of negotiation, collaboration and due diligence to create a model that meets the needs of all schools; their students, staff and parents alike. I will of course keep you updated as we move through this process, which will take a number of months, and there will be a formal consultation with parents and carers in due course.

We are all committed to enhancing and improving the learning for children in the area and are excited by the opportunities this offers our current and future students.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Nunes
Headteacher