



Backwell School

An Ofsted Outstanding School
A National Teaching School

Station Road, Backwell,
Bristol BS48 3BX
Tel: 01275 463371
mailbox@backwellschool.net
www.backwellschool.net

Headteacher: Jon Nunes MA

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Dear Parent/Carer

A new educational landscape

As you are aware there have been recent changes at Backwell School, with Mr Baldwin retiring and the appointment of a headteacher and deputy headteacher. There are also changes planned in the wider educational landscape.

One of the biggest changes is the creation and development of Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs). A MAT is a formal agreement between a group of schools to work closely together. The Government released a white paper in March entitled Educational Excellence Everywhere. This document outlines the government's vision for education over the next five years. Part of this paper states the desire for all schools to become academies (Backwell School became an academy in 2011) and join or form a Multi-Academy Trust.

At local government level, North Somerset Council has stated that all primary schools in the county should be part of a MAT by September 2017. This means that a number of MATs will need to be set up or expanded in the local area.

What does this mean for Backwell School?

The Governing Body of Backwell School is now actively considering the creation of a MAT involving Backwell School. We have a number of key principles that we would like a Multi-Academy Trust to meet:

- To enhance and improve the learning experience, from Reception to GCSE and A Level, for our children and young people.
- To be a local MAT serving the local community of learners.
- To not impinge on or change the character or ethos of the respective schools in the MAT.
- It will be a collegiate MAT enabling cohesive and collaborative planning, support and development across schools in the MAT, in terms of teaching and learning and administrative support systems.
- To increase individual schools' cost-effectiveness.

We would like the MAT to provide a smooth pathway through education for children between schools in our local area. Closer working will strengthen teaching and learning, assist the move from primary to secondary whilst strongly supporting those with Special Educational Needs. It should also allow for economies of scale and procurement savings to be made.

To find out which schools may be interested in formalising a relationship with us the Governors are currently in discussion with primary schools in our locality.

What does this mean for your child?

This investigation, and any subsequent formation of a MAT, will obviously take some time. Should a MAT be decided upon the aim is for this to take effect from September 2017. This means that it would be sensible for the recruitment of a permanent headteacher for Backwell School to be delayed until this process is complete. The Governing Body has therefore asked Mr Jon Nunes to continue as Headteacher until August 2018. Mr Nunes has agreed to this and I know that he will bring continuity during this probable period of change for Backwell. Mr Paul Conkie has also agreed to continue in his current position of Deputy Headteacher for a second year.

Throughout this process Backwell School will continue to deliver an outstanding learning experience for all of its students and we anticipate that a MAT will only strengthen the education of Backwell students.

I will of course keep you fully informed of the progress. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at the school address.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Moloney', with a horizontal line underneath.

Maurice Moloney
Chair of Governors