



Shavington Academy

'Together we enjoy, aspire, create & achieve'

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Headteacher: Mrs E J Casewell B.A (Hons), N.P.Q.H.

Friday 17th June 2022

Dear Shavington Academy Parents, Carers and Community Stakeholders,

In 2021 the Secretary of State for Education set out the government's vision for all individual schools and academies to become part of a family of schools within the structure of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). The academisation of the education sector has been underway for more than a decade but the move towards larger, multi school organisations has gathered pace over the past few years. It has been reinvigorated by emerging research that strongly suggests that the best educational outcomes for children come from groups of schools working together. These groups of schools or MATs have been increasingly successful in raising standards across all of their schools by investing time and resources in both pupils and staff.

Thinking about the future, the Headteachers, Members, Trustees and Governors at Shavington Academy (SA MAT) and Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School (HCCS SAT) share a view that there is a strong sense of synergy between the values and ambitions of the two schools and are therefore exploring the potential to come together to form a MAT. The academies in Shavington and Holmes Chapel have a strong track record of working together as part of the Chimney House Teaching Schools Foundation. Collectively, our schools have been part of highly successful programmes delivering initial teacher training, continuous professional development for teachers and offering tailored school to school support in less successful schools

The development of the MAT is centred around improving the educational experiences and outcomes for our pupils and we believe that as a MAT the more effective use of staff development, shared practice and financial efficiency would all enable this to occur at an even greater level. As with all key decisions our governors are committed to putting the best interests of our children, our staff and the wider community at the centre of the process. We are therefore keen to involve you, as a valued partner; in the consultation process that will take place prior to the summer break this academic year, as this process proceeds to the next stage of a potential merger.

The consultation proposal is to form a new MAT, built and designed together, with a clearly articulated underpinning set of values. The MAT would then look in the future to develop and grow via an associate model where schools would be brought into the MAT when they were able, with support, to match the values and expectations of the MAT. The underpinning values of the two establishing schools remain solid and in place over time as the central governance model wouldn't change when other schools apply to join the MAT. The joint values and identities of our schools become the core of the new umbrella organisation as both schools are very clear that their identity within the local community is very important and something that they do not wish to see diminished.

If the formation of the new MAT goes ahead, the current Holmes Chapel Single Academy Trust will cease to exist and the current Shavington MAT will be reformed under a new name to indicate the merging of the two schools. The names of the two schools themselves will not change and they will continue to operate very much as they do now with the authority to operate delegated to the school's Local Governing Bodies and the Headteachers. In technical terms, Shavington MAT is described in this process as the transfer and HCCS Academy Trust the transferor. The new MAT will be held to account by its Members and Trustees.

Members, Trustees, Governors and Leaders believe that this next step will support both schools to explore a range of questions that stakeholders often ask during consultation periods and provide the opportunity for parents and carers, our community and our partners to raise further questions for consideration regarding the proposal.

The Trust and Governing Boards wish to consult with our stakeholders including:

- Staff
- Pupils
- Parents/Carers
- Trade Unions
- Local Primary Schools and Pre Schools
- Local Secondary Schools
- The Local Authority
- Parish Council
- Local Community

The consultation window will run from 17th June 2022 to midnight on 15th July 2022

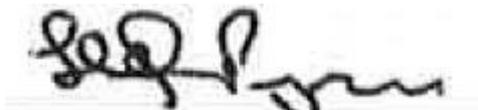
A detailed FAQs document has been attached to this letter, providing responses to questions and matters that have been raised through the process so far and there will be opportunity for a face-to-face Q&A session at each school within this consultation period:

Shavington Academy: Tuesday 5th July 2022 5.00pm – 6.00pm
Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School: Thursday 7th July 2022 5.00pm – 6.00pm

Your views and comments on this proposal can be shared here: [MAT Consultation Form](#)

We look forward to receiving your feedback regarding this proposal.

Yours Faithfully,



Stefan Pyra
Chair of Trustees



Emma Casewell
Headteacher