



26th June 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

You will recall that during the Spring Term of this year we asked for your views on the possibility of forming a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) in partnership with Pensans and Newlyn Schools from March 1st 2015. Following the consultation period, the Governing Bodies of the three schools, although keen to continue with the process, decided to postpone the creation of the MAT until they could be certain that such a change would be in the best interests of their schools in the foreseeable future.

The main areas of uncertainty were:

- What the future educational landscape would look like after the 2015 General Election;
- How we could ensure that the MAT had a clear educational purpose and means of achieving this over time;
- What a sustainable financial management structure would look like for the MAT.

The result of the General Election is now well known. It is also clear that the current Government is set to significantly expand the Academies programme over the next five years to include many, many more schools. This may well mean schools having little or no choice on the Academy chains or groups they have to join. Indeed, the Education and Adoption Bill which is currently before Parliament gives some indication on the scope of academies' expansion which is planned during the life of this Parliament.

Since making the decision in early February to continue to pursue the possibility of academy status with a later conversion date, a great deal of work has taken place across the three schools to put in place a robust model of financial management utilising the skills we already have in our administration teams as well as enlisting expert advice and support from external agencies.

Finally, and most importantly, the three schools have a clear set of common aspirations for the educational goals we wish to achieve, and are rapidly developing the shared means of achieving them. Staff from across the schools are working closely together on 'Immersive Learning' which is already having a great impact upon engagement, motivation and outcomes for children in all year groups. We are delighted that the progress has been so significant between our three schools that we are on the verge of becoming the first recognised centre of excellence for this work in Cornwall. The potential benefits to our learners which this formal collaborative way of working offers provides the most persuasive and exciting rationale for the creation of a MAT on our own terms.

Having considered these points, the Governing Bodies of Alverton, Pensans and Newlyn Schools met on Tuesday 23rd June and voted overwhelmingly to convert to a Multi Academy Trust on 1st September 2015.

We are enormously excited by the opportunities that this will give our schools as we continue to strive to improve the lives and opportunities for our young people through partnership and collaboration, whilst being able to retain the unique identities, cultures and communities of our individual schools.

Thank you for your support and encouragement throughout this process. We will be producing a FAQ type of document for parents in the next few weeks but will happily try to answer any questions you may have in the meantime.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nanette Newton-Hinge'.

Martin Higgs
Headteacher

Nanette Newton-Hinge
Chair of Governors