



Backwell School

An Ofsted Outstanding School
A National Teaching School

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

Headteacher: Jon Nunes MA

2 May 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Developing a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) relationship between schools in our area

As you know, we have been considering how we might develop our partnerships to best meet the needs of young people and families in our community. While we recognise that good relationships already exist, we feel that going forward we need more formal collaboration with partners to give our schools the structure, service and security that they need in the post-Local Authority era. The Backwell School Board of Governors has recently voted to explore the option of joining the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP) which is already a multi-academy trust.

We would plan to join as a local hub of schools so that we have access to central services from the Trust, as well as benefit from close partnership with our neighbours. The schools consulting on this venture are Backwell School, Backwell CE VC Junior School, West Leigh Infant School, Flax Bourton CE VC Primary School, Yatton CE VC Infant School, Yatton CE VC Junior School, Northleaze CE VC Primary School, Grove Junior School and Hannah More Infant School. The current members of Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP) are Gordano School and five primary-phase schools in Portishead and Portbury. It is anticipated that in time there may be several more local area school hubs within the Trust.

We believe that this would have a great many benefits for our children, families and staff. In particular, this would enable us to share facilities and staff expertise to develop our curriculum offer. The Trust would also have a central focus on professional development for our staff so that we can continually improve in our teaching and learning.

Each school within the Lighthouse Schools Partnership retains its own individuality, ethos and values. In terms of the day-to-day running of our school, there would be little difference from what we currently experience and we would maintain our strong identity as a community school. In almost all respects the structure of the leadership team here would also remain the same, with the Headteacher making operational decisions and sharing the strategic leadership with our Governing Body. However we would also benefit from shared planning and services with other schools and the challenge on standards that working within the LSP would bring.

The next stage is to run a statutory consultation process and this will start on Monday 8 May and conclude on Monday 12 June 2017. We will create a Multi Academy Trust Consultation page on our website where you will find further information on our proposal and our FAQs document. You are also invited to attend a consultation event at **Backwell School on Tuesday 23 May at 7.00 pm**. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to hear the presentation, please email mailbox@backwellschool.net and we can give you details of the governor and staff sessions that are planned where the presentation will be duplicated. You may also wish to send comments or

questions to our Clerk to Governors via mailbox@backwellschool.net. The governors will have access to all responses to the consultation before they make a final decision on the matter.

We look forward to engaging with you in exploring this very important step for our school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Nunes".

Jon Nunes
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maurice Moloney".

Maurice Moloney
Chair of Governors