

PRINCE HENRY'S HIGH SCHOOL

An "Outstanding" Academy for Students aged 13-18

Headteacher: Dr A A L Evans BSc(Hons), PhD



22nd September 2014

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Prince Henry's High School Multi-Academy Trust Consultation

You will no doubt be aware that Prince Henry's High School became an Academy Trust in March 2011. For the last three and a half years, although we continue to work closely with the Local Authority, we have operated independently and this has brought great benefits to the school.

The government is now supporting a drive to schools working in formal collaboration with each other and we have an exciting opportunity available to us. In our own pyramid, seven feeder schools are hoping to form a Multi Academy Trust with Prince Henry's during the next academic year. We have been approached by the following interested schools: Ashton under Hill First School, Church Lench CE First School, Cropthorne with Charlton CE First School, Harvington CE First School, St Andrew's CE First School, St Egwin's CE Middle School and Swan Lane First School. In our model each school will convert to become an Academy with its own Headteacher and Governing Body. **Prince Henry's will retain its own Governing Body and I can assure parents that I will still remain as Headteacher of Prince Henry's.**

I have recently met with the Director of Children's Services for Worcestershire and discussed our proposals with her. I have also met with the Director for the Worcestershire Diocese and they are also supportive of our pyramid working in collaboration. It is hoped in time, other schools will join the Prince Henry's Multi-Academy Trust when they are in a suitable position to do so.

It is therefore proposed that the Prince Henry's Academy Trust will convert to a Multi Academy Trust at some point in the next academic year. **In terms of what this will mean for students who are currently attending Prince Henry's, there will be no change.** In terms of our future, we will be able to improve educational opportunities by achieving a greater economy of scale by working as a larger organisation. Please be assured that we have been busy preparing for this behind the scenes and establishing appropriate organisational structures to ensure that Prince Henry's continues to provide an outstanding level of education.

I can assure parents that the Governing Body is unanimously supportive of our intentions to become a Multi Academy Trust. They have been very much involved in this process, and many of them were established Governors at the school when we originally converted to Academy Status in 2011.

What will becoming a MAT mean for Prince Henry's?

The Governing Body of Prince Henry's will remain in place and operate as it currently does. The Governing Body currently reports to the Prince Henry's Academy Trust Members. As part of the Prince Henry's Multi-Academy Trust, the Governors of Prince Henry's would report to the MAT Trust Directors who would in turn report to the MAT Trust Members. The MAT Trust Directors will be made up of Governors from Prince Henry's, as well as representatives of the other schools involved. Steve Butcher, as Chairman of Governors and I, as Headteacher, will also become MAT Trust Directors.

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The Prince Henry's High School Academy Trust trading as Prince Henry's High School, registered as a company in England and Wales at the above address. Reg No 07512962

Working in collaboration with Bredon Hill and St Egwin's Middle Schools

Other schools joining the MAT would also retain their local Governing Body and current procedures, but would be required to report to the MAT Trust Directors as well.

What are the benefits of being a MAT?

There are numerous benefits including:-

- A shared vision for MAT schools across the Prince Henry's pyramid whilst retaining the individual characteristics and ethos of each school
- Greater protection for individual schools in a rapidly changing political, financial and educational climate
- Formalised school liaison allowing children and parents to be sure of the progression pathways and educational structure in an era when schools have more freedom
- Shared expertise, facilities and resources from specialist teachers across the MAT can benefit all
- Improved use of individual school's finances through economies of scale offered by bulk acquisition of services and resources

Are there any disadvantages to becoming a MAT?

As a MAT, the central Board of Directors will be accountable for any other academies that join the MAT, not just Prince Henry's. This means increased responsibility. However, as part of the conversion process, the Governing Body will ensure that careful decisions are taken to ensure that the right governance structure and systems are in place to successfully operate more than one academy.

What else will change?

We do not intend to change anything else about the day to day operation of the school as a result of converting to a MAT.

How can I find out more?

There is more information about MAT academies on the DfE website:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/academies>

If you can't find the answer to your question here, or on the DfE website, please email MATconsultation@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk.

The consultation process

As Prince Henry's is formally changing its governance structure we, together with the other seven schools need to go through formal consultation independently of each other. You have an opportunity to make representation, should you wish to do so.

In addition to the consultation process, all other schools who wish to join the MAT have to go through a due diligence exercise in relation to legal and financial parameters.

Prince Henry's will not sign the Funding Agreement for the MAT until parents and carers of pupils, as well as staff at the school have had the opportunity to comment on the proposals and this letter is a key part of this process.

Any comments or representations which are made about the proposals will be considered by the Governing Body before it takes the final decision to convert to Academy Status. Details of how to provide comments and representations are set out below.

The Governing Body will not vote to proceed with Academy conversion unless they are content that conversion would be in the best interests of the school, taking account of all of the legal and practical ramifications.



The closing date for representations to be made is 17th October 2014.

Representations can be made in writing to:

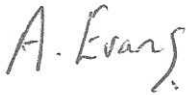
MAT Consultation
Prince Henry's High School
Victoria Avenue
Evesham
WR11 4QH

Or by email to:

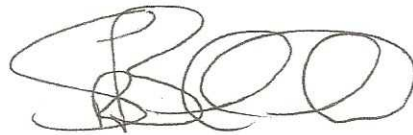
MATconsultation@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk

Finally, I can assure parents that staff, Senior Leadership Team, Governors and senior representatives from the Local Authority and Worcester Diocese are all supportive of this proposal.

Yours sincerely



Dr A Evans
Headteacher



Mr S Butcher
Chairman of Governors