

Tuesday 19th January 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

As you are probably aware the Primary Academies Trust has gone from strength to strength over the past few years with a growing number of schools interested in joining the Trust and the strong performance of our schools. During this time we have worked carefully to build capacity both in terms of leadership and school improvement experience.

We are very well regarded as a Trust by the Regional Schools Commissioner and the Department for Education. We also work extensively with Multi-Academy Trusts regionally and nationally and with partner schools across Devon.

Over the past 12 months the Directors of the Primary Academies Trust have been considering the next step in terms of the Trust's development and one of the avenues that they have been exploring is a secondary partnership.

Some of you may recall that the Primary Academies Trust was initially set up to build a strong platform for primary schools to support each other in delivering the highest quality of education. As the Trust has developed and evolved we have been keen to learn more about 'what happens next' for children who leave our primary schools and we see developing a greater understanding of secondary education as one of the key ways that we could improve even further what we offer our pupils.

With this in mind we are writing today to formally consult with parents, staff and wider community partners on a proposal for Pilton Community College (North Devon) to join the Primary Academies Trust. A consultation FAQ document is available on the school and PAT websites with hard copies available in the school office.

The Directors will not be taking this decision lightly and they have already explored and examined the potential opportunities and challenges that taking a secondary school into the Primary Academies Trust would generate. One of the key priorities for the Directors will be to maintain the strong primary school improvement networks that are so central to our philosophy and performance.

As part of their analysis of the possible impact of this initiative, the Directors would welcome comments from parents. We have opened a dedicated consultation mailbox for any interested parties to offer their thoughts or comments consultation@thepat.org.uk. Similarly, for those of you who prefer to make contact via letter, please send your comments to Company Secretary, the Primary Academies Trust, Woodwater Academy, Woodwater Lane, Exeter, EX2 5AW.

The Directors of the Trust consider this project to potentially be an extremely exciting and positive step forward for the Trust as it evolves and develops into an organisation that has even greater capacity to support school improvement.

The consultation will close on Monday 22nd February 2016, the Directors of the Primary Academies Trust will consider all consultation responses prior to deciding whether or not to seek Secretary of State approval for this initiative.

Kind regards,



Gary Chown
CEO of The Primary Academies Trust