



14 September 2018

Dear parent/carer,

The Langley Academy Trust has always looked for ways in which to work in collaboration and partnership to improve standards and contribute to both educational and local communities. We are committed to the children and students and our colleagues who serve our academies so well. As a forward-thinking trust, we look at many different opportunities to widen our contacts and invest in developing our networks. Over the past few years, a number of different opportunities have been explored and, to date, we have been involved in working collaboratively with a range of schools and trusts. Until now that has meant that we have grown from The Langley Academy to become the Langley Academy Trust that incorporates Parlaunt Park Primary Academy and The Langley Academy Primary. The Langley Academy Trust does not seek growth for growth sake but looks to identify the right partners to continue our journey.

As you may know, central government are encouraging Multi- Academy Trusts (MATs) to examine the benefits of closer collaboration between individual Academies and Multi- Academy Trusts (MATs) with a view to improving outcomes for children and students and securing better value for money.

As a result of this and our own ambitions to provide the very best education for every child in our Trust, this year, discussions have taken place with Pioneer Educational Trust (Upton Court Grammar School, Trevelyan Middle school and Foxborough Primary) as to how we might work in collaboration and partnership with one another. That journey has started by looking at the compatibility of our values, educational ethos and vision for education. In order to do so, we visited one another's schools last summer term.

The Trust Boards of both trusts have independently considered the findings from these visits and have come to the conclusion that working together on education might be the best means to drive improvements even further forward. There is a shared view that working collaboratively will bring benefits for the children and students, and also for the staff and the leaders across the trusts which have a positive impact on our communities.

Over the coming weeks and months, Pioneer Educational Trust and The Langley Academy Trust will be looking at how this collaboration is structured and how formalised it could be. More thought and consideration needs to go into what the future relationship might be and as part of our preparatory work we have been considering a number of issues which need to be resolved before we make a decision to proceed. These issues include agreement on a single vision for the future and new structures of leadership, organization and governance. If we were to merge we would not plan to change the character of any of the six schools in the Langley and Pioneer MATs. This includes UCGS maintaining its Grammar and selective status and TLA keeping its banding structure and comprehensive policy.

Both trusts will consider what is in their best interest, but any formal arrangements such as a merger of both trusts into a single organization, has to be approved by the Regional Schools Commission. This involves an application process which details the vision and rationale for the merger. We do intend to do this but only so that we know that this option is open to us if we believe it would benefit the children, parents and staff in each Trust. This would be with a view to help increase our capacity to accelerate student progress by sharing best practice in teaching and learning and making the new MAT an even more attractive choice for teachers to develop their careers.

Of course, such a change cannot happen overnight. Trustees have to weigh up the benefits, risks and practical implications of a merger compared with what could be achieved more simply through closer partnership between the two existing MATs. We will put in our application very soon but may not hear for some months. If it is approved and we still believe that it is the best route for success, then we would complete due diligence on all HR, Legal and land issues before any final decision was made. If we decide that children's best interests would be served through a merger we would then begin the process of consulting stakeholders - including governors, teachers and parents.

In the meantime, we will continue to demonstrate our commitment to the schools within The Langley Academy Trust.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any issues that you would like to raise.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RB' followed by a stylized flourish.

Rhodri Bryant
Executive Principal