

We learn to live...



...and live to learn.

Thursday 8th March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you on the STAR Multi-Academy Trust (STAR MAT) and also with regard some work for the STAR MAT to be led by our Headteacher, Ian Yapp.

As you will be aware, following a successful consultation period all schools involved have resolved to move forward towards the trust. This has been supported by the Department For Education and Regional Schools Commissioner - we have an academy order in place. Work is busy behind the scenes with the first tranche of STAR MAT schools, including Riverside, planned to convert to the STAR MAT on 1st May 2018. There is a great energy and sense of teamwork involved in this process including a tight partnership with the local authority and all partner schools. Given that Riverside is a strong, good school, with a very recent Ofsted inspection, our model of 'earned autonomy' means that in reality there will be little change for you and your child as we form the STAR MAT: the governing body will be in place adding the same layer of challenge and support. In simple terms, the school will be accountable to the local trust and the DfE instead of to the local authority - and in fact, because the Trust will only have ten schools, the accountability for all aspects of our work to our local community will increase substantially. This is our principal reason for forming the STAR MAT - to work closely in our locality to ensure the very best outcomes for the children and young people in our area.

You may be aware that alongside the nine 'converter' academies, STAR MAT will also be sponsoring Saxton Primary School, which following Ofsted last year was placed in special measures. This is again part of our founding principles - that our local schools have a local option if they encounter difficulty. Following negotiations with our Governing Body, the STAR Trust will be commissioning Mr Yapp to provide Executive Headteacher support for Saxton for an interim period commencing after May half-term (once Mr Yapp has completed this year's y6 maths tuition etc).

Whilst Mr Yapp will be Headteacher for both schools throughout this period, in practical terms this will only call Mr Yapp away from Riverside for around one or two days per week. On those sessions we already have in hand the additional non-contact time and high quality classroom cover for class RAW, so that Miss Woodward can be Head of School in Mr Yapp's absence. Miss Woodward is an exceptional professional and as Mr Yapp consistently points out, is a more than capable headteacher in her own right. Our arrangement with Saxton and the STAR MAT will be flexible and reviewed regularly to ensure that Mr Yapp remains the visible, hands on headteacher he has been over his ten year tenure at Riverside.

I am sure that the next few months will bring with it new and varied challenges, but also undoubtedly, lots of exciting opportunities for crossover and partnership with our local schools.

As ever, if you would like to discuss anything within this letter, please do get in contact via the School Office.

Kind regards,

Ian C Butler
Chair of Governors



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