

We learn to live...



...and live to learn.

Thursday 16th November 2017

Dear Governors, Staff, Parents and Carers,

STAR Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) Developments

We are writing to update you on recent developments concerning our exploration of setting up a multi-academy trust consisting of initially nine schools: Appleton Roebuck Primary School, Kellington Primary School, Kirk Fenton CoE Primary School, Monk Fryston CoE Primary School, Riverside Primary School, Sherburn High School, Sherburn Hungate Primary School, South Milford Primary School, and Tadcaster Grammar School.

The governing bodies of each of these schools have expressed an interest in setting up a multi-academy trust together, and we are now beginning more detailed planning, prior to a formal consultation period which will begin next month and continue into the New Year. As you know, academies are schools which are not maintained by the local authority, but set up their own governance and accountability arrangements, and are funded directly by the government. The majority of secondary schools (almost 70%), and a growing number of primary schools (almost 25%) in the country are already academies, and the numbers continue to increase.

We believe that the strength of our partnership, as members of the Sherburn, Tadcaster and Rural Schools (STAR) Alliance, will enable us to build and develop a multi-academy trust that reflects our values and shared commitment to working together to improve outcomes for our pupils and students. Many of our staff are already benefiting from the collaborative work in the alliance too, and an even stronger partnership can provide further opportunities for them. In the long run, we believe that these arrangements will also make our schools more viable and sustainable at a time of increasing pressure on our budgets.

Our planning is being led by a steering group that has headteacher and governor representatives from a number of our schools, and which will keep schools updated on progress. The most important part of this process, of course, is open consultation with parents and staff, and we intend to begin this in December, when we will provide much more information to you, leading to consultation events in January and February. These will provide an opportunity to find out more about the potential benefits - and challenges - of becoming academies, and to raise any questions and concerns you may have.

Please contact us if you would like any further information at this stage.

Kind regards,

Handwritten signature of Ian C Butler in black ink.

Chair of Governors

Handwritten signature of Mr I Yapp B.Sc (Hons) in blue ink.

Headteacher



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