

Tuesday 5th March 2019

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are writing to make you aware of a development which will have an influence on the future direction of our school, to invite you to an information evening to find out more and to provide opportunities for us to listen to your views.

Since 2012 Broadoak Mathematics and Computing College has been a Single Academy Trust (SAT), which means that, like every other secondary and the vast majority of primary schools in North Somerset, we are a state school that is independent of Local Authority control. While we maintain positive relationships with the Local Authority, and indeed the other schools in the county, the regulatory body for our school is the Department for Education, rather than the local council.

While all of the secondary schools in North Somerset are now academies like us, there are only three schools, including Broadoak, that are not yet members of a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). A MAT is formed where schools have joined together formally to share ideas, best practices and resources in order to benefit the pupils in the member schools; the notion of actively collaborating under a common vision for excellent education is a key part of the concept. MATS are also well positioned to support their member schools in an evolving and challenging educational environment.

The governing body of Broadoak has been exploring the idea of joining a MAT for some time and this work has intensified since the appointment of Ms McGillicuddy as Headteacher eighteen months ago. This has involved an extremely rigorous and thorough process of research, meeting representatives of local and regional MATs and understanding both the MAT landscape and what kind of partnership would ultimately be in the best interests of current and future Broadoak children.

The period of research and fact finding has come to an end and our school is now in direct conversation with the Cabot Learning Federation (CLF), a MAT that already has primary and secondary academies in Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset. The Broadoak governors feel that the CLF is a good match for our values; it shares our pupil-centred approach and the high ambition we have for the children in our school. All of the schools currently in the CLF are local to this area and, as an organisation that has been operating for 12 years, it is one of the most mature and experienced MATs in the country.

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'Maximising students' abilities, ambitions and academic potential'

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Last month we informed the Department for Education that we were speaking to the CLF about joining their MAT, with the intention that, should these discussions prove successful, a transfer would ideally take place in time for the new school year. However, ahead of any formal processes starting, we wanted to ensure that you have the opportunity to speak to us about this development and ask any questions about how the process would move forward and what the opportunities for Broadoak pupils would be under the new arrangement.

For that reason, we would like to invite you to find out more and to share your views with us in the following ways:

Tuesday 5th March until Friday 22nd March: A period of listening to your views.

Please forward any questions or comments via the following routes:

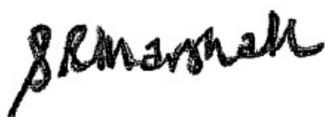
- To the Headteacher, Ms McGillicuddy, via email
fd@broadoakcollege.org.uk
- To the Chair of Governors, Ms Marshall, via email
srm@broadoakcollege.org.uk

Thursday 14th March at 7pm: An information evening with representatives from our senior leadership team, our Governing Body and from the Cabot Learning Federation.

Monday 25th March: A letter will be sent to all parents/carers with responses to items raised during the period of listening and outlining our next steps as a school.

We look forward to seeing you and sharing views on this important development for our community. As always, the current and future young people of our school and their continuing success will be front and centre in all decisions.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs S Marshall
Chair of Governors



Ms K McGillicuddy
Headteacher