



St Mary's C.E.V.C. Primary School,

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Headteacher: Miss E Grunnill

Administrative Officer: Mrs. E. Hemsley

7th March 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

We wrote to you recently about the proposal that St Mary's join with five other Primary Schools and the Gryphon School to set up a Multi Academy trust to be called the Sherborne Area Schools' Trust.

Bring part of a new Multi Academy Trust will allow us to further strengthen the links between our schools in order to support the continuity of education from 0-19 within our community. The Sherborne Schools' Partnership has worked closely together for many years to provide an excellent education for our young people and so to collaborate more closely is an exciting prospect.

The Governing Body of each school will make any final decision to join the proposed Trust. The educational benefits for the students, staff, parents and wider community will be the key factor in making any decision to change status. There are eight aspects where significant changes have been identified:

1. Students will make even better progress and improved outcomes
2. Preserving, protecting and enhancing what we have
3. The schools have the experience, expertise and quality to operate as a MAT
4. Even better teaching and learning
5. It will provide the resources to support outstanding teaching and learning
6. High impact school to school leadership support
7. More integrated and co-ordinated support for students and families
8. Securing and managing resources and facilities to sustain high quality provision

Each of these aspects is explained in greater detail in a SAST Proposal document which is available from the School website. It is a long document; the Executive Summary gives the key points. There will be a Parent Meeting led by the Governing Body on **Tuesday 14th March 2017 at 7.30pm in the school hall** if you would like to know more about this proposal and ask any questions. It is aimed to last approximately one hour and is for adults only. **Please complete and return the attached slip back to school before Tuesday 14th March to let us know if you will be attending.**

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Weekes
Acting Chair of Governors