

Deansfield Primary School

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24th March 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you of the outcome of the consultation process on whether the schools within the Compass Partnership of Schools should convert to academies and together form a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT), and the subsequent decisions made by the governing bodies of each school.

The consultation process was a very valuable one, during which we were able to gather a rich body of opinion regarding the proposal, and were also able to answer specific questions raised by parents, staff, unions and members of the Local Authority. We would like to thank everyone for engaging in the process and for giving us the opportunity to be able to really reflect on the unique character of our schools, and how they sit within the broader structure of the Compass Partnership. Governors and leaders in each school have been very mindful to ensure that the interests of their community were heard in the process, and have all contributed to the collective body of evidence used as the basis for each school's decision.

At the outset, Governors and leaders could not have predicted the clarity of the announcement made by the Chancellor in his budget statement last week. This signalled, very clearly, the direction of travel and the intention of the Government to reshape state education in England and to focus this on developing an academy led system by 2022. Governors and leaders were able to draw on the detail of this announcement to further inform their decisions.

After examining the evidence from consultations with parents, staff, unions, and the Local Authority, each governing body voted individually on the question of whether the Compass Partnership should convert to Multi-Academy Trust status, and whether their individual school should convert to an academy as part of the process. We are pleased to inform you that the last meeting of Governors was yesterday evening at South Rise and we can now confirm that all governing bodies voted unanimously to pass a resolution to apply for academy status, and we will therefore move forward as a group of 7 schools to form The Compass Multi-Academy Trust. It is important to note that whilst Wingfield is applying for conversion at the same time as the other schools, it will convert at a later date, after its new building has been completed.

This is now the start of the next phase of our journey. We will now work collectively to shape our articles, constitution, and scheme of delegation. As these important documents take shape, we will invite opinion and feedback before we arrive at the final versions.

We are confident that this is an opportunity for us to shape our destiny and continue to strengthen our schools at the heart of Greenwich. Please access the MAT tab on each school's website as we move forward, as this is where we will post regular updates.

Yours sincerely

Hugh Lewis

Chair of Governors

On behalf of the Governing Body



Willow Dene - Alderwood - South Rise
Deansfield - Wingfield - Horn Park - Halstow

Executive of The Compass Partnership – John Camp