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Falmouth Multi Academy Trust (MAT) update

Monday 23rd Jan 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to be able to provide you with the following information regarding the proposed formation of a Multi Academy Trust between King Charles, St Francis and Falmouth School. It has been really important that our consultation has been lengthy, thorough and wide reaching. To that end we have provided opportunities for parents to respond informally i.e at the school gate, more formally at specific individual drop ins and through written correspondence.

Many of you have taken us up on these opportunities and it has been great to get your feedback, **all** of which is taken notice of. We specifically chose this route as we wanted to have a more personalised approach giving you the best possible chance to receive all information pertinent to your own questions.

However, we do also appreciate how busy family life is and fully understand that some parents may not have had chance to look at all the information we have previously provided, so are very happy to send this personal letter which provides the main points for parents and allays any potential misunderstandings. To this end we have endeavoured to provide concise summary points which are specifically pertinent to parents, and we would encourage you to read the full proposal and further information available on the schools' websites.

Key points of the Falmouth MAT proposal

- We are **3 successful schools** coming together from a position of strength, to maximize educational opportunity for all of our pupils
- The MAT will provide a more formal structure between the schools, ensuring that the children, families and the school community benefit from significant opportunities that an enhanced **locally based** partnership would bring.
- King Charles and St Francis are Church schools and their **distinctive Christian ethos** and values will remain at the heart of the schools (the Diocese are supportive of this proposal and very excited about this potential partnership)
- **Parent governors** will remain a key aspect of governorship in all schools. The local governance structure of the Falmouth MAT is a key part of the partnership proposal whereby local people maintain control of the development of education in Falmouth both now and in the future.
- The Trust will be an **equal partnership** between secondary and primary – our primary schools cannot be dominated by or dictated to by the secondary school and vice versa
- **Primary leadership will remain exactly as it is** with Claire Fortey as Executive Headteacher supported by a Head of school at King Charles and at St Francis
- **Potential initial benefits** for our primary school children include
 - ✓ being able to use the specialist facilities at Falmouth school e.g science labs, drama studio, music rooms, sports facilities,
 - ✓ being able to get to know staff at Falmouth school prior to moving in to Year 7,
 - ✓ having access to staff with specialist subject knowledge
- **Potential longer term benefits** for our primary school children include
 - ✓ improved provision for all children through the associated benefits of teachers carrying out joint lesson studies, joint data analysis, joint teaching, joint curriculum planning
 - ✓ improved provision for children who require additional support through the development of specialist services, better equipped to meet individual pupil needs e.g employing our own therapists
 - ✓ providing children with a far wider range of opportunities for personal development e.g in art, music, drama, sport and for social development e.g in leadership, joint school council,
- **Potential benefits for parents** include
 - ✓ harmonising of KS2 and KS3 curriculum and approaches, thereby enabling greater continuity of care and educational provision for all pupils but particularly those moving from Y6 to Y7 (*the smooth transition for all our children moving to Falmouth School and other secondary schools will remain as important as it currently is; we will continue to support and develop the transition of children to each and every school chosen at secondary level.*)
 - ✓ clarity of vision and ethos across all 3 schools (see overleaf*),

- ✓ increased accountability so that schools are challenged and supported even further than they are currently, thereby reducing the risk of any of the schools underperforming,
- ✓ greater alignment of key organizational arrangements e.g training days and holiday dates.

On going process

A significant amount of information sharing on an informal and formal basis has taken place over the last 6 months and the process of considering our move to a MAT continues and includes

- regular meetings of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of governors across all 3 schools
- regular meetings of the business/finance managers across all 3 schools
- regular meetings of the senior leaders from all 3 schools
- regular meetings of the governing body and full consideration of due diligence evaluations
- full consultation with the school's stakeholders (now complete)
- continued discussions with the Department for Education, the local authority and the Diocese.

To conclude

Parents can be assured that the Killigrew Partnership governors are committed to giving full consideration to the advantages and disadvantages of forming this new partnership and when a decision is reached in March, it will be the result of a thorough process and comprehensive due diligence carried out by the Governing Board, including our parent governors. In the meantime, if you have any further questions or suggestions please feel free to chat with senior leaders when you see them out and about and all parents are always welcome to make an individual appointment to chat with the Headteachers and/or Chairs of Governors via the schools' office email address.

We end with a draft summary of the principles which all 3 schools have recently been working on together, which ably demonstrates that we can all be reassured of our unified commitment to serving our children and our community the best we can. Once again, many thanks for your continued support.

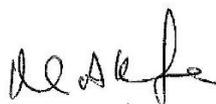
**The following principles will guide and secure the purpose and goals of the Trust.*

- *All employees, Directors and Governors working for the Trust will accept and embrace their professional responsibility to care for every child and young person within the Falmouth MAT, treating all within our community with dignity and respect at all times.*
- *Every child in the Falmouth MAT has the right to the highest quality academic, social, emotional, spiritual and physical education.*
- *High quality intervention will be provided when appropriate to ensure the learning needs of all pupils are met at the earliest opportunity.*
- *Employees of the Trust and governance accept responsibility to a high quality in-service training and an appraisal process that is challenging and supportive to enable outstanding teaching and leadership*
- *All children and young people will be nurtured within an agreed moral framework secured through Christian values, British values, and the values of community schools*
- *There will be clear structures in place to ensure that the voices of all children, young people and adults within the Trust are heard and valued.*
- *The trust will value and respect each school's distinctive ethos and identity.*
- *The trust will aim to identify and foster the passion that motivates each child and endeavour to provide an atmosphere where children enjoy learning and want to go to school.*

All best wishes,



Dave Nicoll
Chair of Governors



Michaela Kerridge
Parent governor



Vicky Peters
Parent governor

On behalf of the Full Governing Board of The Killigrew Partnership