



Tuesday 19th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

The governing body of The Westwood Academy is proposing to be a partner school within the proposed Kenilworth Multi-Academy Trust. At its inception, the Kenilworth Multi-Academy Trust (KMAT) will comprise the newly formed Kenilworth Academy as lead school and The Westwood Academy as a partner school. The governing body is now consulting on whether The Westwood Academy should become a partner school in the KMAT application bid. Further information about what joining a multi-academy trust means can be found in the FAQs on our website. How you can comment on the proposal, is set out below.

What will be the benefits of joining a multi-Academy Trust, in particular the Kenilworth Multi-Academy Trust?

This is a justifiable question; The Westwood Academy is a successful and growing academy in its own right. It was inspected in June 2013 and was judged to be a good school by OfSTED. Outcomes have improved further since then.

Kenilworth School is an oversubscribed, outstanding school that has recently been successful in achieving Teaching School status. It has a national profile through the work of the Head Teacher Mr Hayden Abbott (National Leader of Education) and has a highly respected status in the local community of schools. By working within a Trust alongside Kenilworth Academy, The Westwood Academy governing body believe that we can capitalise further on our own success in the following ways:

- To provide additional curriculum and enrichment opportunities for Westwood pupils
- To provide staff with a wider range of professional development opportunities and to continue to attract the highest quality staff to the school.
- To work alongside an outstanding school in order to fulfil our own vision to become outstanding. The above benefits are made much easier due to the close geographical location of our two schools further ensuring that there will be an increased opportunity to share knowledge, good practice, resource and expertise.

Will The Westwood Academy definitely become a member of the Kenilworth Multi-Academy Trust?

Kenilworth School are not currently an academy and as such will be applying to the DfE via the Regional Schools Commissioner to form a MAT. We fully support this application in light of the many benefits detailed above.

Both Kenilworth School and The Westwood Academy have undertaken due diligence and believe that the synergies that exist between the schools constitute the basis for a successful formal arrangement to be progressed. The governing body of Kenilworth School intend to make application to convert to Academy status in the form of a newly formed multi-academy trust, the Kenilworth Multi-Academy Trust (KMAT); the newly formed Kenilworth Academy will be the lead school and have already undertaken consultation to this effect. The planned date for conversion will be April 2018.

The Westwood Academy is now consulting on whether it should progress with plans to be a named partner in the application to the DfE for the creation of the KMAT. However, the school is not obligated to become a member of KMAT until the contract between the KMAT and the Department for Education (known as the Funding

Agreement) is signed. Although the decision to join KMAT resides with the governing body, The Westwood Academy will not formally agree to join KMAT until our stakeholders have had the opportunity to comment on the proposals.

We are consulting with the following stakeholder groups:

- Parents and carers of pupils at The Westwood Academy
- Staff at The Westwood Academy
- Parents and carers of pupils in Year 5 and 6 at our local feeder primary schools
- The governing bodies of other local secondary schools in Coventry
- Other local stakeholder groups e.g. Xcel Sports Centre, The University of Warwick and local government (the Local Authority)

The consultation process will run from Tuesday 19th September until Monday 16th October 2017. In the first instance, we welcome any comments you may wish to make in writing, or by email. The email address to be used is consultation@thewestwoodacademy.co.uk

In addition, staff and pupils will have face to face meetings with key members of the governing body. Parents and carers will have an opportunity to attend consultation meetings with key members of the governing body on: Tuesday 26th September 6:00 – 7:00pm / Wednesday 4th October 6:00 – 7:00pm & Thursday 12th October 6:00 – 7:00pm to learn more about the proposals to join KMAT, or to comment on the proposals. Other stakeholders will be able to make representation in writing via the email address above.

If you wish to attend any of the sessions detailed above please e mail consultation@thewestwoodacademy.co.uk indicating which meeting date you would like to attend and we will endeavour to meet your requirements. In addition and on request we will timetable opportunities for face to face meetings.

Any comments or representations which are made about the proposals will be considered by the governing body before it takes the final decision to convert to academy status. The governing body will meet on Tuesday 17th October to vote on whether to proceed with joining KMAT as a partner school. They will not do so unless they are content that this is in the best interests of the pupils and staff, taking account of all of the legal and practical ramifications and the opinions of the wider stakeholder group.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Harris
Chair of Governors



Ms J Benton
Head Teacher

THE WESTWOOD ACADEMY

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