



IRCHESTER COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL LANE, IRCHESTER, NORTHANTS, NN29 7AZ

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Monday 16th April 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Many of you will be aware that during the previous academic year, the Governors had been considering a move to academy status and were actively exploring a range of models for this process that would be of most benefit to Irchester School and the local educational community. As a Governing Body, we have continued to explore these options with the Department for Education, Northamptonshire County Council and most importantly our local partner schools.

We are now pleased to outline our initial plans for the formation of a Multi-Academy Trust, initially comprising of Bozeat Community Primary School, Wollaston Secondary School and Irchester Community Primary School. The working title for our MAT is the Nene Valley Partnership and although we are establishing this partnership as three schools initially, we have a longer term vision for the MAT to grow and incorporate other local partner primary schools in due course. We believe that this will be a unique opportunity to promote educational excellence and cohesion in the local area.

There is clear evidence of the benefits of schools working together and of how Multi-Academy Trusts can formalise this type of partnership working to provide coherent educational provision for the benefit of all students in partnership schools.

Although there is no longer a compulsion for schools to work within a MAT structure, there are a number of benefits and opportunities which forming a MAT may present, and details of the rationale for this proposal can be found below. Furthermore, within our local area we are fortunate that most of the schools currently remain under local authority control, meaning that there is an opportunity to establish a local MAT, ultimately comprising of a number of local schools to establish and sustain a coherent and collaborative community education provision.

The Vision

We believe that working in partnership is the best way of securing a long term, high standard of education for all of the children and families that we serve. The Nene Valley Partnership will be established with the following principles:

- Educational excellence and ambition for all;
- A coherent approach to local education for our community from ages 4 – 18;
- A partnership of schools, each with their own character, ethos and a mission to serve the needs of their local communities;
- A commitment to outstanding local educational provision; with the MAT enabling schools to support and challenge each other – with school improvement and shared expertise and resources at the heart of our work.

The Proposal

- Irchester Community Primary School, Bozeat Community Primary School and Wollaston School will establish a Multi-Academy Trust with the working name of The Nene Valley Partnership;
- Each school will apply to the Department for Education to become an academy, working within the above Multi-Academy Trust;
- Formal consultation with the community will begin once applications have provisional approval from the Department for Education;
- The MAT is aiming to become operational from around September 2018;
- The Nene Valley Partnership will be established with a clear growth plan and will work with other local schools to grow a MAT that includes a range of local educational provision.

This is an exciting time for all three schools and we believe it is a great opportunity for all of the schools in the local area to work in partnership on forging an excellent community focussed local education system, which drives school improvement and lays long term foundations for educational excellence in our locality.

Further information will follow, once we have received approval from the Department for Education. This will then mark the start of a formal consultation period with the views of a wide range of stakeholders to be sought. As with any significant change, we know there are likely to be many questions which arise during the consultation period and we are keen to learn of the views of all of our stakeholders. In the meantime, if there are any urgent issues that you would like to discuss, and which are not addressed in the following FAQ's, please contact Julia Alison or Julie Lea at Irchester School (chair.irchest.northants@dbprimary.com)

Yours sincerely



Julie Lea (Mrs)
Chair of Governors
Irchester Community Primary School

