



# IRCHESTER COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL LANE, IRCHESTER, NORTHANTS, NN29 7AZ

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1<sup>st</sup> October 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.

As a Governing Body, we have submitted our application to the Department for Education for the formation of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) which will be called The Nene Valley Partnership, which will initially comprise of Wollaston Secondary School, Bozeat Primary School and Irchester Primary School.

Over the summer our application was approved and as a result we now have to enter into formal consultation with you as parents and carers. Separate consultations will also take place with students; staff and the wider communities of each school.

The period of consultation will be from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November and will give you the opportunity to raise any concerns you may have and to ask any questions in relation to the running of the MAT.

We believe that the formation of the MAT will provide an excellent opportunity to promote educational excellence and cohesion in the local area. We have a longer term vision for the MAT to grow and incorporate other local primary schools in due course.

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 Nene Valley Partnership will be established during the Spring Term 2019 with a clear growth plan and will work with other local schools to grow a MAT which 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.

## How you can engage with this consultation

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. You may wish to share your views using any of the following methods:

- E-mail Julie Lea (Chair of Governors) at Irchester School [chair.irchester.northants@dbprimary.com](mailto:chair.irchester.northants@dbprimary.com)
- Attend the Parent Voice meeting on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October
- Put written comments into the Consultation Box in the school office during October
- Conversation with a Governor at either Parents Evening – 30<sup>th</sup> October or 1<sup>st</sup> November

A copy of some of the more frequently asked questions is attached with this letter for your attention.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Julie Lea – Chair of Governors.

