

16<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

As one of the first Primary Academies in the country (since January 2011) Oreston has enjoyed a successful period as a single academy trust. The governors are very proud of the school, its children and staff and are keen to see it continue to develop and grow ever stronger. In the new educational and economic circumstances we find ourselves in, it is clear that working in strong partnerships is essential to this process.

With this in mind the Governing Body has been considering the possibility of joining with other academies to form a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).

A Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) is where a group of schools formally join together and are governed through a single set of members and directors. Through a MAT we would have the opportunity to collaborate with, learn from, and support other schools.

An opportunity has now arisen to explore the exciting possibility of forming a new MAT with a group of other local primary and secondary schools that share a commitment to improving the lives of young people in our local communities. The primary schools are: Dunstone Primary School, Wembury Primary School, Oreston Community Academy, Sherford Primary School (once open), Yealmpton Primary School, Stowford Primary School, Holbeton County Primary School and Woodlands Park Primary School. The secondary schools are: Plymstock School, Coombe Dean School, Hele's School, Plympton Academy, Ivybridge Community College and Callington Community College.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the proposed MAT would be Rob Haring, former Principal of Ivybridge Community College and current CEO of the Ivybridge Academy Trust.

Collaborative working with other schools in a MAT offers many benefits for children and staff; sharing best practice in teaching and learning, curriculum collaboration, extra-curricular opportunities, staff development, finance and human resources, legal services, school improvement structures and governance arrangements. We also believe that by working together we can make our money go further and keep school funding focussed on teaching and learning.

It is important to emphasise that the potential formation and development of a new MAT would be underpinned by our total commitment to maintain and enhance the excellent work of Oreston. Our particular ethos, unique school identity and day to day operation will remain unchanged but our larger vision would be extended to work with other schools in order to enhance the educational opportunities for children/students and staff across our local area.

If we decide to move beyond the exploration stage, we would begin a formal consultation process to gather the views of all stakeholders and at that point we would very much welcome your views as parents / carers.

We will of course keep you frequently updated but at this point we would like to stress that we are currently only in the exploration stage and no final decisions have been made.

Thank you for your continued support for Oreston.

Yours sincerely



Principal / Head teacher



Chair of Governors