



16 January 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Following a successful period as a single academy trust since April 2011, the Governing Body of Plymstock School is considering converting to Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) status. 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.

The governors are very proud of Plymstock School and its students and staff and are keen to see the school continue to develop and grow stronger. Working in partnership is essential to this process. Through a MAT we can collaborate with, learn from, and support other schools.

Collaborative working with other schools in a MAT offers many benefits for students 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.

We are currently exploring the exciting possibility of forming a new collaborative partnership with a group of local primary and secondary schools that share a commitment to improving the lives of young people in our local communities. **The secondary schools are:** Plymstock School, Coombe Dean School, Hele's School, Plympton Academy, Ivybridge Community College and Callington Community College. **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 Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the MAT would be Rob Haring, a former Headteacher of two extremely successful schools and currently a CEO of a smaller Multi-Academy Trust.

It is important to emphasise that the potential forming of a new collaborative partnership within a MAT would be underpinned by our total commitment to maintain and enhance the excellent work of Plymstock School. Our ethos, unique school identity and day to day operation will remain unchanged. Our larger vision is to work collaboratively with other schools to enhance the educational opportunities for students and staff across the local area.

If we 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. This would include e-surveys and parent information evenings.

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

Thank you for your continued support for Plymstock School

Yours sincerely

Robert Diment
HEADTEACHER

Kevin Bunt
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS