



Monday 9th October 2017

Dear Parent/carer,

Following consultation with the staff, parents and community partners, the Governing Boards of John of Rolleston Primary; Outwoods Primary and William Shrewsbury Primary have now confirmed their intention to change status from foundation school to academy and form the Central Co-operative Learning Trust from 1st November 2017.

The rationale being to maintain the successful partnership between the schools and to adopt a model that embraces the Co-operative values whilst also retaining the individual character of each school.

During the consultation there were some questions raised which the Governing Boards felt it was important to respond to.

Respondents had asked why the schools were proposing to form a multi academy trust as opposed to joining the de Ferrers MAT.

All three Governing Boards received presentations from the de Ferrers MAT. The decision to form a primary multi academy trust, as opposed to joining the de Ferrers MAT, was because the headteachers and Governors felt that their expertise lies in primary education and therefore a primary focused model would ensure that this expertise is retained.

Respondents had commented that they would not wish to see the MAT increase massively.

Whilst there are potentially two other schools who may wish to join the group there is no plan for expansion beyond schools already known to the MAT at this time. The two schools considering joining are already working in partnership with us under the umbrella of Burton Co-operative Learning Trust. The headteachers and Governors recognise the importance of embedding the changes that academy status will require whilst also retaining the unique nature of each school before growing further.

A query was raised in relation to the length of consultation. The headteachers and Governors have exceeded the requirements set out by the Department for Education and used all forms of communication to encourage parents/carers; staff and community partners to respond. Unusually for this type of consultation drop in sessions and information evenings were also offered to parents. The Governors therefore feel that they have made every effort to provide opportunity for comments to be made.

There was also a question about how becoming Academies would affect the Ofsted Inspection Process for schools. The DfE policy document says; *In line with other good schools, as well as outstanding special schools and pupil referral units, the short inspections of academy converters will be carried out approximately every three years. However, in the case of the first short consider the inspection history of the predecessor school to decide the timing of the inspection. For example, where the last inspection of the predecessor school took place some time before academy conversion, Ofsted may deem that the school would benefit from an earlier short inspection.*

As a result, following the consultation, the Burton Co-operative Learning Trust will be dissolved after the MAT is formed on 1st November 2017. However, we will continue to work in partnership with the de Ferrers academy as our secondary education partner (including their primary schools) as well as the primary schools as we have already established successful partnerships with them; this includes St Modwens; Mosley; Richard Wakefield and Fountains Federation. The Central Co-operative Learning Trust will be outward facing ensuring that we provide the best opportunities for the children and for the development of our staff.

We thank you for the feedback that you have given and look forward to your support as we form the multi academy trust.

Mr Ian Bateman

Headteacher

John of Rolleston Primary School