

17th March 2023

Dear Parents, Guardians and Stakeholders,

**Notice of Intention to Consult to become an Academy within a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)**

Following a protracted period of investigation and analysis of the situation for supporting and developing education in Surrey, the Leadership Team and Governing Body began exploring options to join a Multi-Academy Trust. After careful consideration and trial associate membership of one trust, it was decided to pursue a detailed investigation and analysis of the benefits, strengths and opportunities that students and the community would gain should Glebelands decide to become an Academy as part of a Trust. This was carried out between September 2021 and February 2023, including with Surrey County Council's Department for Education and The Regional Schools Commissioner's office. On March 8th 2023, the Governing Body passed a resolution proposing that Glebelands School should join with Learning Partners Academy Trust.

This proposal would result in us converting to an Academy and joining that Trust.

This letter is to advise you that we plan to organise a formal consultation on this proposal, which will run between Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March and 19th April 2023. During this period, parents and the community and other stakeholders will be able to express the views in comments and at a Public Meeting to be held on Monday 17th April, 2023 at Glebelands school.

In considering joining the MAT, please be assured that the over-riding concern of governors is to ensure that our school continues to provide the best possible standard of education and care for our children.

**Key points relating to conversion to Multi-Academy Trust status**

- Our school will retain its character and will continue to look, feel and be the same as it is now with the same uniform, school name, school times, holiday pattern and admission policy. Most of the changes will be behind the scenes.
- There are no proposals to change our admissions policy to favour other schools within the MAT. We will continue to work closely with all our local schools including all our local junior schools in areas such as Year 6/Year 7 transition and events.
- The Headteacher and Governing Body will continue to lead our school on a daily basis as they do now, and parents will continue to be represented on the Governing Body.
- The MAT arrangements will share some services across the schools which will help us be more efficient and make sure that funding is focused on teaching, learning and support for children.
- Many benefits accrue to the school and the Trust by this Union, including support for staffing, sharing of best practices and successes in Teaching and Learning and help with management of facilities and funding.
- There will be no changes to staff terms and conditions. We hope that the new opportunities afforded by the MAT will reassure and encourage staff that they remain a vital part of the school's commitment to our children.

As you may be aware, it is government policy to encourage and support all schools to become academies and to organise themselves within MATs. At the same time, local

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**Headteacher:** Mr R Mitchell BSc (Hons) PGCE

authorities are reducing the services that they have available to schools as their budgets are reduced.

This is why the governors have been considering our options for some time. Governors believe joining a MAT is the best way to support the school in continuing to develop and improve, and that working together within the Trust will bring benefits to teaching and learning, as well as making it economic for us to provide more services in-house, using our resources more effectively. This will have a positive impact on children's achievement.

By working together with other schools, we can use our resources more effectively and support one another to improve children's education.

During the period of consultation, further information on the Trust, the impact of the school joining the trust, and the benefits that we believe will derive, will be made available to all those involved. You will have the opportunity to express your views and to raise any questions you wish. **A public meeting will also be held on the evening of Monday 17th April at Glebelands School in the Main Hall from 6.30pm**, for you to comment and ask questions, as well as to meet other members of the Trust.

Further information on how on how to provide your views via the consultation will be available on the school website from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023. In the meantime if you have any queries please contact the Consultation Administrator, via the school switchboard, 01483 542400.

Yours sincerely,



Nigel Sanctuary  
**Chair of Governors**  
**Glebelands School**



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