

25th September 2020

Consultation to join the River Learning Trust (RLT)

You may be aware that in recent years there have been significant changes to the educational landscape. This continues and, as a small trust of three schools we have been working hard to consider how we prepare for our future place in this shifting context. We want to make sure that we take the right decisions to secure the best future for our pupils, families and our local communities.

We are also aware that there is an expectation by the DfE that all schools will be part of larger groups and trusts, or Multi Academy Trusts (MATs). Currently, we are a small trust which has grown steadily to three schools. We are now at a point in our strategic planning that we can see the benefits of joining a larger successful local MAT which shares the high expectations and ambition for our schools to be genuinely great, inclusive and successful. At this present moment, we have the freedom and autonomy to choose the next steps of our journey ourselves and we want that to be in a direction that would allow us to build on our many existing strengths, whilst maintaining our own, unique, identity.

Following careful research and investigation into the wide range of options that may be available to us, the Trustees and Local Governing bodies has begun a dialogue with one local MAT, River Learning Trust (RLT). The Trustees would like to begin a formal consultation process with all stakeholders about our future and the proposal that we should consider joining this particular organisation. The timelines for joining RLT are provisionally planned for April 2021 subject to both Trusts and the DfE agreements being in place . More details about the trust we are interested in joining can be found at <http://www.riverlearningtrust.org/information/>

We would like to find out what you think about this, as your support is crucial to our continuing success as a MAT with three school communities. Your voice and input are important to us. To aid further the understanding of the next steps are a series of answers to some frequently asked questions, which will be expanded as the consultation progresses, these are [available online](#). We hope that you will take a few minutes to read the information. We have created a [simple online form](#), which allows you to share your views on the proposal and provides an opportunity for you to raise any questions you may have. Please complete and submit this by the 16th October 2020.

We recognise that you may also want the opportunity to hear more from RLT and the plans for the schools. We also welcome discussion with you and hope that through the meetings we can hear your views and be able to answer any questions you may have. We are also keen to be able to discuss with you this proposal and how any formal collaboration may impact on children's education. To this end, we propose to hold meetings on the following dates and times.

See dates, times and joining instructions below:

5th October at 5pm-6pm to join online click on this link, it will take you to the google meet:
meet.google.com/ayg-jose-djr.

13th October from 2pm-3pm to join online click on this link, it will take you to the google meet:
meet.google.com/nan-wctk-zsv

12th October at 5pm to 6pm to join click this link, it will take you to the google meet:
meet.google.com/ckf-qtxa-fet

14th October 6pm to 7pm to join click this link, it will take you to the google meet:.
meet.google.com/gak-dtpi-zym

All are welcome to attend. Please confirm your attendance by e-mail to consultation@csat.academy

Please note: these meetings will be recorded for the benefit of those not able to attend.

This is potentially an opportunity to move our school forward in a way that will be beneficial for all of our pupils. Therefore, we would strongly urge you all to share your views with us. As members of the CSAT community of schools we look forward to hearing your thoughts and comments.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Liz Tyler Bell Chair of CSAT