

February 2018
18/MC/te

Dear Parent/Carer,

I write to update you on our exploration of joining a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). Since the last update, the Governing Body has undertaken a huge amount of research into a wide range of different MATs and there have been many hours of discussion and deliberation. The key guiding principle has been to preserve the unique ethos of our Academy and build a partnership that enriches and further develops our Academy rather than change it.

The Governing Body has met with many MATs and has conducted a robust analysis of benefits and opportunities presented by each of them. Following full consideration of all evidence and discussions, the Governing Body of Thornhill Community Academy has voted to submit a statement of intent to the Regional Schools Commissioner to join SHARE Multi Academy Trust; a Kirklees based MAT founded by Shelley College. This decision is subject to further due diligence, consultation with key stakeholders and approval from the Regional Schools Commissioner's Headteacher Board.

Crucially, we are proposing to join a MAT which is in its infancy and which comprises solely of Kirklees based schools. Our initial partners in the MAT would be Shelley College, Cowlersley Primary School, Heaton Avenue Primary School and Millbridge Junior, Infant & Nursery School. A key advantage will be that leaders and Governors of Thornhill Community Academy would have a big say in the future direction the MAT and the Academy takes and any changes would be a collective decision.

It is our hope that other Kirklees Secondary and Primary Schools will join the MAT moving forward. The MAT will allow us to work together with other schools in order to share best practice and make the most efficient use of resources. We are excited about the opportunity to be involved in building something that is in Kirklees and see huge benefits in working with a variety of schools from which there will be much for us to learn and much for us to share.

Forming a MAT is not a merger of the schools; the schools remain separate entities in their own right. Joining SHARE MAT will allow Thornhill Community Academy to keep its own identity, values and ethos whilst aligning with the MAT's ethos of 'Valuing People, Supporting Personal Best'. There will be no change to our Academy name, admissions policy, uniform or catchment area.

As we have already converted to an Academy we do not legally have to consult with staff and stakeholders. However, we do appreciate that some members of our community may be apprehensive about Thornhill Community Academy joining a Multi Academy Trust. Therefore we are offering parents and carers the opportunity to attend one of two question and answer sessions which will be attended by Bev Matthews (Headteacher), Margaret Campbell (Chair of Trustees and John McNally (Chief Executive Officer of SHARE MAT) and which will be held on:

- Wednesday 28th February 2018, 5pm-6pm
- Monday 5th March 2018, 6pm-7pm

If you would like to attend one of the Q&A sessions please complete the reply slip overleaf.

Headteacher: Ms Bev Matthews

Deputy Headteachers: Mr Jerry O'Hara, Mr Matthew Burton

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Alternatively you can email your questions and comments to enquiries@thornhillcommunityacademy.co.uk (please put 'Multi Academy Trust Consultation' in the subject box). You can also post questions to the Academy; please address the envelope to the Headteacher marked 'Multi Academy Trust'. The deadline for submission of any email or postal responses is Friday 16th March 2018 when the consultation will close.

Yours faithfully

Margaret Campbell
Chair of Governing Body

Multi Academy Trust Q&A Session

Please identify which Q&A session you would like to attend and return the slip to the Academy **Main Reception** by Monday 26th February 2018.

Date	Preferred time slot:	Please tick which session you would like to attend:
Wednesday 28 th February 2018	5 - 6pm	
Monday 5 th March 2018	6 - 7pm	

Name of Attendees: _____

Child's Name: _____

Tutor Group: _____