



Learning, Culture and
Children's Services

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Establishment of South York Multi Academy Trust (MAT)

We write to update you on our progress to establish the South York MAT following further discussions with the schools involved, the Local Authority and representatives from the Regional Schools' Commissioner and the Diocese. These discussions have also been joined by The Danesgate Community which is an existing member of the South York cluster and which has had a previous and ongoing involvement in our MAT discussions. As a result of these discussions Danesgate will now also be joining our MAT membership in addition to the schools involved in the recent consultation. The Danesgate Community's membership of our MAT emphasises our commitment to inclusion.

Danesgate will continue with its City-wide function as a Pupil Referral Unit and will seek to further develop its specialist provision through a proposed application to establish a special school in the future for students with complex social, emotional and mental health needs. Given this, our proposed MAT will provide truly comprehensive educational provision within the city.

The initial phase of development will see four schools applying to establish the MAT with two sets of three schools applying to join the MAT at two further six month intervals. The initial schools seeking to convert in September 2017 will be Fulford, Dunnington, Wheldrake with Thorganby and Danesgate. They will be followed by applications from Naburn, Archbishop of York Junior School and Elvington approximately six months later and by Lord Deramore's, Escrick and St Oswald's by September 2018. The scheduling of these applications for conversion and the intended timescale for establishing the MAT has been agreed in discussions with all parties. The exact timing of the conversion of each school will depend on the complexities of their individual conversions and the capacity of the Local Authority and Diocese to support these in the light of potential conversion requests received from other schools. The timing and indeed the occurrence of conversion will also depend upon the approval of the Regional Schools Commissioner.

We are working with the Diocese to identify and agree key MAT members and we are currently seeking to recruit further members and trustees for the MAT board from our existing governing bodies and from individuals with previous experience of governance in our schools. This approach will enable us to utilise the skills and talents of our governors and to root our MAT firmly within our communities. Further details of MAT governance and leadership will be communicated when our appointments are completed and the names and proposed roles are finalised and are agreed with the Regional Schools Commissioner.

We will provide a further update when the outcomes of the initial MAT applications are known and as we have more information on the progress of our conversion work. Please be assured that we will seek to keep you informed of key decisions once we have these confirmed.

Yours faithfully,

Patricia Head (on behalf of the Headteachers and Chairs of the proposed South York MAT)

Headteacher