



Menston Primary School

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Menston Primary School Collaboration News

2 February 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are writing to you on behalf of our school's Governing Body to share news with you of an exciting partnership opportunity that Menston Primary School is going to be pursuing this year.

Over the past few weeks and months, governors and senior staff of several local primary schools have been exploring together the possibility of converting to become academies in order to join Moorlands Learning Trust (the multi academy trust initially set up by Ilkley Grammar School), to create a new primary partnership within Moorlands Learning Trust (MLT).

Having considered the opportunities that closer partnership working within the MLT could bring to Menston Primary School and our children and staff, and having met with and explored in some detail the practicalities of how this might work with MLT and other local primary schools, we are pleased to share that our Governing Body has now given approval for us to formally pursue this partnership. The other schools whose Governing Bodies have also decided to move forward with this at this initial stage are Ashlands Primary School, Burley Oaks Primary School and Silsden Primary School.

Our decision to become an academy is very much a positive one. We believe it to be in our school's best interests and that we will be particularly well supported by joining a trust which respects schools' individual identities and which shares our own ethos. We also believe that MLT will be able to support us in our aim to ensure that teaching and learning in our school remains at the highest possible standard and enables each of our children to flourish during their time with us before transitioning successfully to the next stage of their education.

Although we believe that becoming an academy and joining MLT alongside these partner schools is the right decision for Menston Primary School, this is only the first part of the process and there are now many stages of due diligence, as well as legal processes, that we will need to engage in over the coming months before this can become a reality. We are also aware that there will be questions from you and the wider community about this change for Menston Primary School and so we will be taking time over the coming weeks and months to engage with you fully about this, to hear your feedback (including through a formal consultation in due course) and to answer any questions. This means that the earliest that academy conversion would take place would be at the start of next academic year.

Although becoming part of a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) will mean that the formal, legal status of all schools involved will change, all schools will still retain their unique characteristics and identities, with their existing staff teams and their own local governing bodies overseeing the operational running of their schools as they do now.

Some of the key benefits that we believe more formal working through MLT would bring to our schools and communities are:

- increased and more flexible staffing resources where specialisms and experience can be shared across schools
- wider opportunities for pupils' learning and extra-curricular experiences

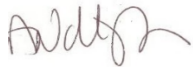
Here at Menston Primary School, we are dedicated to safeguarding the well-being of all children and adults in the school and expect everyone in our community to share this commitment.

- a better and broader overall experience, for example as a result of benefitting from the sharing of best practice across multiple schools, including high quality staff development
- a greater range of career progression opportunities for all staff in order to help develop and retain staff who might otherwise move on
- economic benefits through centralised costs and procurement

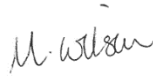
We hope you will agree that this is a very exciting new phase for the school and we look forward to discussing this with you in more detail in the coming weeks.

We will be holding a parent presentation event on Monday 27 February at 6pm so that parents and carers have the opportunity to meet key staff from the Moorlands Learning Trust along with members of our Governing Body and the Senior Leadership Team. In the meantime, please direct any immediate questions to the school office and we will be happy to answer them.

Yours Sincerely,



Annet Nottingham
Chair of Governors



Marie Wilson
Headteacher