



2nd December 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

Invitation to attend an Information and Consultation

Open Community Meeting

Re: The transfer of St Edmund's School Academy Trust into the Magna Learning Partnership Multi-Academy Trust and the conversion of Trafalgar School and Wyvern College into Academies within the new Multi-Academy trust: Magna Learning Partnership

We write to inform you that the governors of our school alongside those of Wyvern College, Laverstock, and Trafalgar School, Downton have been exploring the possibility of becoming a multi academy trust to be called the Magna Learning Partnership.

We believe that by working with other local schools, we both retain our identity and are better able to deliver our vision of continually enhancing, enriching and extending the educational experience for our children in Salisbury and the surrounding area. We consider that developing a Trust by local schools for local schools provides real opportunities for staff. We also believe that a mixed economy of successful schools comprising mixed and single sex, Church school and Foundation school, is attractive and highly beneficial to the local community.

Having received authorisation from the Department for Education to progress to the next stage, our Project Steering and Interim Board (PSIB) is now developing the forward plans for St Edmund's Academy Trust to formally become the Magna Learning Partnership as a multi-academy trust and for Trafalgar School and Wyvern College to convert to become academies and join St Edmund's School within the new trust. As part of this process we want to share these plans with you and bring you up to date with the work that is being undertaken by the Project Steering and Interim Board.

As part of the process, we want to hear your views and would like to provide you with as much information as possible, so that you may better understand the importance in becoming an academy within a Salisbury based multi-academy trust. We have therefore arranged to hold two open community information meetings to share our plans with you, listen to your thoughts and answer your questions.

These meetings will be held on the following dates, times and school sites:

Laverstock community:	Monday January 9th 2017 at St Edmund's School hall, Laverstock	6.30pm
Downton Community:	Wednesday January 11th 2017 at Trafalgar School hall, Downton	6:30pm

You are welcome to choose the meeting and location that best suits you, so you don't have to come to the meeting at your particular school if this date and time isn't convenient. However, to help us organise the events, please complete the return slip enclosed at the end of this letter identifying your preference, and return the slip to Elaine Slack, Headteacher's PA at St Edmund's School, by **Friday 6th January 2017**.

What are academies?

St Edmund's School has already converted to academy status. Academies are publicly funded schools, which are not controlled by the Local Authority or Diocese and therefore have additional independence in a number of important areas. This greater independence brings increased responsibilities and opportunities to build on success to ensure continued improvement in services to families in the local community. You can view further detail on academies including the 'Model Funding Agreements' at the Department for Education website:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies>.

What is a multi-academy trust?

A multi-academy trust builds on the principles above, and is where two or more schools convert to academy status together. A single academy board (a charitable company limited by guarantee) is formed to provide the strategic leadership and oversight of all the schools in the Trust. Each school will retain a Local Governing Board which will operate in much the same way as it does at present with delegated responsibilities from the new Trust board.

Why convert to Academy status?

The Department for Education has made a clear commitment to encourage all schools to become Academies and to join with other schools to provide high quality education for local communities. In addition to that Government policy we can see clear positive reasons for closer co-operation too: economies of scale in procuring services; open and honest challenge to each other; sharing responsibility and pooling our skills; working together to serve our community. This is a group of schools which has developed closer collaborative working in recent years and wishes now to formalise and expand these opportunities. Geographically the schools are in close proximity which makes for a logical Multi Academy Trust and a Trust that will serve its community well. Our work so far has revealed a high level of convergence in our views about what makes for a highly effective and inspirational educational experience for students and consequently it has been possible to readily identify shared values and aims. It is our belief that each school within the Multi Academy Trust can bring a good deal to the other schools in the group through our collaborative approach.

How can two maintained schools – a CofE VA school and a foundation school, and an existing academy, form a multi-academy trust?

Our proposed multi-academy trust, the Magna Learning Partnership, will be formed by the existing single academy trust of St Edmund's School changing its company articles, name and funding agreement to become a multi-academy trust model, the Magna Learning Partnership, and having a Master Funding Agreement. St Edmund's School will, at the same time, become an academy within the new multi-academy trust and will have a Supplemental Funding Agreement within the Magna Learning Partnership. Trafalgar School and Wyvern College will convert to become academies joining the Magna Learning Partnership, multi-academy trust and each having their own Supplemental Funding Agreement. The structure of the new

Magna Learning Partnership multi-academy trust will appropriately reflect both church and community foundation schools.

It is the Project Steering and Interim Board's considered view that the time is now right for our schools to seize the initiative and develop a local solution for local schools.

What happens next?

We are now entering a consultation period running from Friday Dec 2nd 2016 to Friday 27th January 2017. During this period, we will be consulting with parents/carers, students, staff, unions, governors, the Diocese, the Local Authority, the local community, including churches where appropriate and local schools.

In addition to these open meetings, we have set up a website to share details of the proposed partnership and plans, which can be accessed here:

www.magnalearningpartnership.org

Should you have any comments or further queries then please e-mail us by 27th January 2017 at info@magnalearningpartnership.org or write to your school's Chair of Governors care of the school office. We will publish and update a Frequently Asked Questions section online with any questions or concerns that might emerge during the consultation phase. The current version can be accessed on the website or obtained on request from one of the schools.

We are mindful of our public sector equality duty arising from the Equality Act 2010 and will develop our proposals to mitigate the likelihood of any adverse impact. If you are, or become, aware during this consultation process of any impact on members of the school community who share a relevant protected characteristic (e.g. age; disability; gender re-assignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation) then please contact us.

We look forward to coming together after the Christmas holidays, but in the meantime, if you have any queries, please email them to: info@magnalearningpartnership.org

Yours sincerely



Sarah Busby
Headteacher



Claire Reavill
Chair of Governors

Headteacher: Sarah Busby
St Edmund's Girls' School, Church Road, Laverstock, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 1RD, Tel: 01722 328565 Fax: 01722 421391
Email: office@st-edmunds.eu Website: www.st-edmunds.eu

A Church of England Academy Trust
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The proposed Magna Learning Partnership Communication and Consultation

I will be attending the information and consultation meeting to be held at the following school
(please tick as appropriate)

- Monday January 9th 2017 Time – 6:30pm at St Edmund's, Laverstock
- Wednesday January 11th 2017 Time – 6:30pm at Trafalgar School, Downton

Your full name: _____
(please print)

Student's name (if applicable): _____ Tutor Group: _____

Signed: _____ Contact telephone number: _____
(Parent/Carer)

Contact email: _____

Stakeholder type (please tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Parent/Carer <input type="checkbox"/> | Governor/Trustee <input type="checkbox"/> | Staff Member at one of the converting schools <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Student <input type="checkbox"/> | Local resident <input type="checkbox"/> | Staff member at another local school / pre-school / nursery <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Diocese / local church <input type="checkbox"/> | Local business / charity <input type="checkbox"/> | Local authority / local services <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please return this slip to Elaine Slack, Headteacher's PA at St Edmund's School,
by Friday 6th January 2017

You may also email the form to eslack@st-edmunds.eu if you wish.

Thank you.