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31st March 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Magna Learning Partnership

After much time, planning and anticipation we are now proud to be able to announce formally the opening of Magna Learning Partnership, a new multi academy trust for Salisbury and the surrounding area. This will come into being on 1st April 2017. For St Edmund's Girls' School what this means is that the legal articles change and our existing academy becomes part of the multi academy trust. For Wyvern College and The Trafalgar School at Downton this point marks both the conversion to academy status and membership of MLP.

This is an exciting point in our schools' history and sets in place a pattern of collaboration and co-operation that will define education locally. The factors which make the schools distinctive will be cherished and enhanced, while affording all the mutual benefits of working together. The educational and financial rationale which brought us together initially will become increasingly important and will no doubt prove attractive as other schools are considering joining the Magna Learning Partnership. A local and supportive partnership which celebrates excellence and supports improvement will be a powerful force for change and a real boost for education in our area. Our strapline for the Trust will be *'Excellence Together'*.

With this announcement of welcome change, it is important to stress also that in most important respects the changes will be natural and follow due process. From 1st April the schools will look and feel identical to how they did on 31st March and no drastic or immediate changes are envisaged. Importantly, for parents, the schools will be run in the same way and with the same ethos. As I explained in my letter to you last month, I will continue to be Headteacher of St Edmund's but from next month will share the leadership with Mrs Nicola Bull, Head of School. I will also become the Executive Headteacher of Magna Learning Partnership, stepping into a role focussed on the leadership of the Multi Academy Trust.

We have joined together in this formal partnership clear that it will offer new and better opportunities for young people and their parents and staff in each school. The positive and individual reasons which drew you to St Edmund's in the first place will continue unaltered and we are confident that the benefits of Magna Learning Partnership will be clear to see.

If you have any further questions, please contact me. You may also choose to visit the new website at: www.magnalearningpartnership.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Sarah Busby
Headteacher