

September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Academy Consultation

I am writing to inform you that the Governing Body of Stopsley High School is proposing to convert to an Academy under the Academies Act 2010 and is intending to join the Middlesex Learning Trust (MLT) with the Compton and Southgate schools whom we have been working with very closely over the past 2 years. The Governing Body firmly believes this is the best way of continuing to raise standards within the school and working with these schools and sharing expertise is in the best interests of our students and the school as a whole.

I wish to reassure you that the decision to explore the conversion to academy status has not been taken lightly. The governing body and Headteacher have undertaken a thorough review and consideration of the pros and cons of joining a trust. In addition we have researched a number of trusts to ensure that the Trust we are looking to join will afford the best possible outcomes for our school and our students to be achieved. It is very important to us however that we listen to the views of parents and carers and therefore I am writing to you on behalf of the Governing body to inform you of the consultation process we are about to embark on and how you can get involved.

We are proposing a consultation from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September until noon on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. This will include an opportunity to send in your questions, concerns and comments using this [link](#). These will be considered at our virtual parent voice meeting on the evening of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020. However you are welcome to send in your questions up to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020. During this period, we will publish a list of frequently asked questions on our website.

All views and comments will be made available to the Governing body who will ultimately make the final decision as to whether to apply to convert once the consultation period has closed. Our decision will be based exclusively on what is deemed best in the interests of our students, their education and the future of Stopsley High School. Should we decide to go ahead with this proposal, we are anticipating that we will open as an academy from **1<sup>st</sup> April 2021**, or shortly thereafter.

One of the best source of information on academies is the Government's website: [www.gov.uk/become-an-academy-information-for-schools](http://www.gov.uk/become-an-academy-information-for-schools)

### Why are we making this proposal?

There are a number of reasons why we are applying for an Academy Order to join the Middlesex Learning Trust. These include:

- Having worked so closely with both the Compton and Southgate schools over the past two years we know that they share our ethos and vision and that teaching and learning is at the heart of all they do.

- By joining an established trust with outstanding schools that we are already working collaboratively with, we would be able to continue to do this and further embed the processes and systems we have already put into place in order to continue to raise standards of achievement.
- Being part of a Trust that includes 2 National Teaching schools would provide us with greater opportunities for professional and career development for our teachers, support staff, governors and school leaders, helping, we believe, with both the recruitment and retention of staff.
- Economies of scale mean would mean that by being part of MLT we would benefit from any contracts and services that they are able to negotiate, that represent better value for money with any savings directly benefitting the students.

### **Who are the Middlesex Learning Trust?**

We suggest you visit the Trust's website to gain an undertaking of who they are, paying particular attention to their Vision and Values and governance structure

<http://www.middlesexlearningtrust.org.uk/>

**To allay any initial concerns you may have please be assured that** there are no plans to alter the admissions policy for the school and that within the Trust we would preserve our own individual identity. We would continue to adhere to the locally determined school term dates and the number of days open to pupils during the academic year.

We would continue to teach the national curriculum but also have the freedom to include a wider range of opportunities for our students if deemed appropriate.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Your feedback and views really do count and we will keep you fully informed of future developments.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



**Toni Chivers**  
**Chair of Governors**