



16th July, 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff at Kingstone,

Many of you will be aware that there is a move in education for schools to join together in alliances known as Multi Academy Trusts (MATs). As a small MAT already, the board of trustees here at Kingstone Academy Trust has been considering for some time the potential options to ensure the best future for our schools.

We could:

- **Do nothing and stay as we are.** The schools are in a good place, with strong outcomes, 'Good' Ofsted ratings and financially secure. However, schools that operate on their own, as we do, can become isolated whilst the world around them changes.
- **Become part of a larger, existing Multi Academy Trust (MAT).** We may benefit from their experience and resources but would have to accept their existing ways of doing things.
- **Form a new Multi Academy Trust (MAT).** We would be involved in creating the new alliance and have much more control over how it was organised and run.

After a long period of deliberation, we believe that becoming founding partners of a new MAT represents Kingstone Academy Trust's best interests. We have sought partner schools who already think and work like we do, sharing our values and ethos, and have been collaborating for a while with them. Those schools are:

- Christopher Whitehead Language College
- Whitecross Sports College
- Ledbury Primary School
- Riverside Primary School

It is our intention that all schools in the new MAT would retain:

- Their own ethos and core values
- Keep their own headteacher and governing body

We believe that such a partnership would have significant benefits for our students and the wider community and are excited by the possibility to:

- Share educational resources and best practice
- Collaborate in developing our staff
- Work with other schools to improve education across our two counties

We are in the early stages of putting our plans together and I know there will be questions you will want to ask. There is much to share and discuss in the months ahead. All involved are keen to be open and transparent with the communities we serve and to reassure you that the unique qualities of each school remain and ensuring their continued success lie at the heart of our work on this project. A first step in this process is an application that will go in on behalf of the schools mentioned above, in which we state our intention to form a MAT. This application does not bind us into the trust, but is a part of the consultation process of which you are now an essential part.

In the new academic year we will announce how you can take part in the process and we will provide dates for open events where questions can be asked directly.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "AVigus". The letters are cursive and connected, with a prominent "V" and "g".

Elissa Vigus

CEO – Kingstone Academy Trust