



# Hughenden Primary School

Enrich - Empower - Ignite

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Kings Education Trust – Academy Conversion Update

Hughenden Primary School's Governing Board started to consider the possibility of converting to an academy and joining a multi academy trust (MAT) nearly two years ago, after the 'Opportunity for All' white paper was published in March 2022. The Board first considered possible MATs within Buckinghamshire and then invited three different MATs to provide presentations to the Board.

Following the presentations, it was decided to visit schools, within two of the MATs, in order to be certain which will be the most beneficial in terms of partnership for Hughenden Primary School. Most importantly, we sought a MAT that has a nurturing culture, vision and ethos similar to our school.

The Board considered carefully each of the MATs and decided that Kings Education Trust (KET) was the best partner for us. It has the added advantage that it is small enough for Hughenden to have some influence on how the Trust operates, as it grows. An application to convert to an academy and join Kings Education Trust was submitted to the Department for Education. The application was approved in December 2023.

We will now begin a consultation with key stakeholders about the academy conversion process and what this means for staff and the wider school community. The consultation will start on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024. It will provide an opportunity to ask any questions about the decision to become an academy as part of Kings Education Trust, the academy conversion process and most importantly, any changes that may affect our staff, pupils, parents and community moving forward. The consultation period will finish on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Kings Education Trust opened as a MAT (Multi Academy Trust) on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 and currently consists of three locally based primary schools; Great Kingshill CofE Combined School, Ivingswood Academy and Waterside Primary Academy.

**Headteacher: Mrs Katherine Mann**

Spring Valley Drive, Hughenden Valley, Bucks, HP14 4LR Tel No: 01494 562501

Email: [office@hughendenprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@hughendenprimary.co.uk) [www.hughenden.eschools.co.uk](http://www.hughenden.eschools.co.uk)



Geographically, the three settings are close enough to be able to work purposefully together on shared projects with pupils and staff, with a consistency of approach and support.

Kings Education Trust has a shared vision across the Trust which is to raise local aspiration within communities and to provide an excellent education for our children preparing them for their futures. -The Trust aims to establish strong collaboration between the schools and school leaders within the MAT, with the aim of mutual support and collaborative strength.

The anticipated benefits to our school becoming an academy and joining Kings Education Trust include:

- developing great teachers; to prioritise teachers' professional development; their career opportunities; linking retention and development of future teachers and leaders from within our communities.
- prioritising collaborations between our Pre-School and Primary staff, empowering them to exchange knowledge, share experience and workload whilst recognising the uniqueness of our different communities.
- developing governance through shared training and collaboration to enable support and challenge for a 3-11 educational offer and increase the opportunities for local collaborations with key stakeholder groups.
- sharing of Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND), finance, safeguarding, HR and health and safety expertise to further strengthen offers and increase negotiation powers when re-contracting services.

We realise that any period of change can be unsettling, which is why we want this consultation process to be effective and wide ranging. **At this stage, please take time to respond using either the attached form or the online link (<https://forms.office.com/e/c72TYpB70j>), with any questions or comments you may have regarding the conversion.** We will do our utmost to ensure that all questions raised are answered quickly and in a transparent manner. In return, we are confident that all stakeholders and their representatives will enter into this consultation in the same positive and constructive spirit.

This is an exciting opportunity to shape our future and bring about positive change in the way we run our school, develop our character and values, and continue to drive the best outcomes for our pupils. Please take the time to read the enclosed information leaflet which includes some Frequently Asked Questions.

Some questions that can be answered now are:

Will the Headteacher and staff in my child's school change?

**NO**

Will the school lose its own Governing Body because we are becoming part of an academy trust?

**NO**

Will the name of the school or uniform change because we are becoming part of an academy trust?

**NO**

Will school holidays change because we are becoming part of an academy trust?

**NO**

Will the school have fewer funds?

**NO**

We will be in touch again soon with further updates as we get them.

Yours sincerely,



Katherine Mann  
Headteacher  
Hughenden Primary School



Pat Beveridge  
Co-Chair of Governors  
Hughenden Primary School

**Hughenden Primary School – Academy Consultation**

We value your comments and/or questions so please complete the feedback form either via the online link or the paper form. Please return, to Reception, by Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Online link:

*Handwritten scribble*

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to attend a small meeting to discuss the academy conversion Y/N *(Please indicate)*