

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the final few weeks of the summer term I wanted to provide you with some important information regarding the school's positive conversations with **Aspirations Multi-Academy Trust**.

Many of you will be aware that the recent School's Bill presented to parliament sets out a clear direction of travel for **all schools** to become part of strong Multi-Academy Trusts (MAT). Therefore, as you would expect, we have kept a watching brief on the changing educational landscape and, following extensive research and discussions with all the local MATs, as well as some national ones, we are now confident that we have found a MAT that will not only support and maintain the uniqueness of our school's character, but will also further enrich experiences for our pupils, opening up new and inspirational opportunities that are beyond our current reach.

Over the past year we have built up a very strong relationship with Aspirations Multi-Academy Trust, and after **governors voted overwhelmingly to work with Aspirations** at their recent Full Governing Body meeting, we now feel ready to take this partnership forward. From September, we will be joining Aspirations as an **Associate Member** so that we can begin to build a strong and positive collaboration that leads towards full membership.

Importantly, this opportunity will enable us to maintain our successful Joint Sixth Form with The Sir John Colfox Academy and their new partners, the Wimborne Academy Trust, and also to continue the close association we have with our primary and secondary partners in West Dorset, whilst building exciting new links both regionally and nationally with this highly successful and well-regarded organisation. We are also working to ensure that our long and valued association with The Salisbury Diocese continues.

Through our extensive research and discussions as part of this process, we have always considered whether our young people would be better served, and have better life chances, with us working as part of a MAT or continuing to 'stay as we are'.

Firstly, we have been hugely impressed by the unremitting focus that Aspirations have on the **quality of teaching and learning**, their support for curriculum development and innovation, widening student experience, developing leadership and encouraging students to take more responsibility for their own learning. This is supported by a co-operative and collegiate national group of schools with enhanced professional development programmes for all our staff, as well as supportive monitoring and ongoing feedback. Additionally, with the significant and ongoing reductions in support services available from Dorset Council, as part of Aspirations we will have guaranteed access to specialist staff to support our buildings, finance, IT, HR, SEND and Safeguarding teams going forwards.

We want to share the great opportunity that we believe Aspirations Multi-Academy Trust offers our children and the wider community with you. Therefore, I have attached some information about Aspirations, together with some FAQs to help you familiarise yourselves with who Aspirations are, and in the Autumn term we will be holding an open forum with their Regional CEO, David Herbert, to formally introduce Aspirations and to take any questions that you may have.

I look forward to sharing more about this exciting step for Beaminster with you after the summer break.

Mr Hales

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