



Headteacher:

Mr P German BA (Hons)

December 2016

Dear Parents of Wyvern College

Invitation to attend an information and consultation open community meeting on the transfer of St Edmund's School academy trust into the Magna Learning Partnership multi academy trust and the conversion of Trafalgar School and Wyvern College in to academies within the new multi academy trust - Magna Learning Partnership

We write to inform you that the governors of our school alongside those of St Edmund's School, Laverstock and Trafalgar School, Downton have been exploring the possibility of becoming an academy and creating a new education partnership called the Magna Learning Partnership.

We believe that by working with other local schools, we both retain our identity and are better able to deliver our vision of continually enhancing, enriching and extending the educational experience for our children in Salisbury and the surrounding area. We consider that developing a Trust by local schools for local schools provides real opportunities for staff. We also believe that a mixed economy of successful schools comprising mixed and single sex, church school and foundation school, is attractive and highly beneficial to the local community.

Having received authorisation from the Department for Education to progress to the next stage, our Project Steering and Interim Board (PSIB) is now developing the forward plans for St Edmund's academy trust to formally become the Magna Learning Partnership as a multi academy trust and for Trafalgar School and Wyvern College to convert to become academies and join St Edmund's School within the new trust. As part of this process we want to share these plans with you and bring you up to date with the work that is being undertaken by the Project Steering and Interim Board.

As part of the process, we want to hear your views and would like to provide you with as much information as possible, so that you may better understand the importance in becoming an academy within a Salisbury based multi-academy trust. We have therefore arranged to hold two open community information meetings to share our plans with you, listen to your thoughts and answer your questions.

These meetings will be held on the following dates, times and school sites:

Laverstock community:	Monday January 9th 2017	6.30pm
	at St Edmund's School hall, Laverstock	
Downton Community:	Wednesday January 11th 2017	6:30pm
	at Trafalgar School hall, Downton	

You are welcome to choose the meeting and location that best suits you, so you don't have to come to the meeting at your particular school if this date and time isn't convenient. However, to help us organise the events, please can you complete the return slip enclosed at the end of this letter identifying your preference, and return the slip into the school office by **Friday 6th January 2017**.

What are academies? Academies are publicly funded schools, which are not controlled by the Local Authority or Diocese and therefore have additional independence in a number of important areas. This greater independence brings increased responsibilities and opportunities to build upon our current success and ensure that we continue to improve our service to families in our local community. You can view further detail on academies including the 'Model Funding Agreements' at the Department for Education website:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies>.

What is a multi-academy trust? A multi-academy trust builds on the principles above, and is where two or more schools convert to academy status together. A single academy board (a charitable company limited by guarantee) is formed to provide the strategic leadership and oversight of all the schools in the Trust. Each school will retain a Local Governing Board which will operate in much the same way as it does at present with delegated responsibilities from the new Trust board.

Why convert to Academy status? The Department for Education has made a clear commitment to encourage all schools to become Academies and to join with other schools to provide high quality education for local communities. In addition to that Government policy we can see clear positive reasons for closer co-operation too: economies of scale in procuring services; open and honest challenge to each other; sharing responsibility and pooling our skills; working together to serve our community. This is a group of schools which has developed closer collaborative working in recent years and wishes now to formalise and expand these opportunities. Geographically the schools are in close proximity which makes for a logical Multi Academy Trust and a Trust that will serve its community well. Our work so far has revealed a high level of convergence in our views about what makes for a highly effective and inspirational educational experience for students and consequently it has been possible to readily identify shared values and aims. It is our belief that each school within the Multi Academy Trust can bring a good deal to the other schools in the group through our collaborative approach.

How can two maintained schools – a CofE VA school and a foundation school, and an existing academy, form a multi-academy trust? Our proposed multi-academy trust, the Magna Learning Partnership, will be formed by – the existing single academy trust of St Edmund's School changing its company articles, name and funding agreements to become a multi-academy trust model, the Magna Learning Partnership, and having a Master Funding Agreement. St Edmund's School will, at the same time, become an academy within the new multi-academy trust and will have a Supplemental Funding Agreement within the Magna Learning Partnership. Trafalgar School and Wyvern College will convert to become academies joining the Magna Learning Partnership, multi-academy trust and each having their own Supplemental Funding Agreement. The structure of the

new Magna Learning Partnership multi-academy trust will appropriately reflect both church and community foundation schools.

It is the Project Steering and Interim Board's considered view that the time is now right for our schools to seize the initiative and develop a local solution for local schools.

What happens next? We are now entering a consultation period running from Friday Dec 2nd 2016 to Friday 27th January 2017. During this period we will be consulting with parents/carers, students, staff, unions, governors, the Diocese, the Local Authority, the local community, including churches where appropriate and local schools.

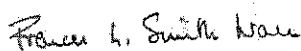
In addition to these open meetings, we have set up a website to share details of the proposed partnership and plans, which can be accessed www.magnalearningpartnership.org

Should you have any comments or further queries then please e-mail us by 27th January 2017 at info@magnalearningpartnership.org or write to your school's Chair of Governors care of the school office. We will publish and update a Frequently Asked Questions section online with any questions or concerns that might emerge during the consultation phase. The current version can be accessed on the website or obtained on request from one of the schools.

We are mindful of our public sector equality duty arising from the Equality Act 2010 and will develop our proposals to mitigate the likelihood of any adverse impact. If you are, or become, aware during this consultation process of any impact on members of the school community who share a relevant protected characteristic (e.g. age; disability; gender re-assignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation) then please contact us.

We look forward to coming together after the Christmas holidays, but in the meantime, if you have any queries, please email them to: info@magnalearningpartnership.org

Yours sincerely,



Mrs F. Smith Wain
Chair of Governors



Mr P. German
Headteacher

The proposed Magna Learning Partnership

Communication and Consultation

I will be attending the information and consultation meeting to be held at the following school (please tick as appropriate), and return to the appropriate school office or email by Friday 6th January 2017

Monday January 9th 2017 Time – 6:30pm at St Edmund's, Laverstock

Wednesday January 11th 2017 Time – 6:30pm at Trafalgar School, Downton

Your Full name: _____

Student's name (if applicable): _____ Class/Year _____

Organisation/School (if applicable): _____

Signed: _____ Contact number: _____

Stakeholder type (please tick all that apply)

Parent/Carer Governor/Trustee Staff Member at one of the converting schools

Student Local resident Staff member at another local school / pre-school / nursery

Diocese / local church Local business / charity Local authority / local services

Please hand in this slip or email to your School Office by Friday 6th January 2017. Thank you.