



Head of School
Mr Des Stokes

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Executive Head
Mrs Rachel Shaw

26 February 2016

Dear Parent,

We are writing to seek your views on a proposed merger between Academies South West, South Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust and Templer Academy Schools Trust. Having given careful consideration to the benefits for future generations of students, the Directors are proposing to do this beginning in September 2016 but possibly through a two stepped process given the size and complexity of the merger.

Who are we currently?

The Multi-Academy Trust is a charitable company, bound by company and charity law, funded by the Secretary of State. At the moment we are three completely separate companies, and you can see a list of the schools involved at the end of this paper – the vast majority are good and outstanding.

By coming together we will form a single Trust of 11 Primary and 6 Secondary schools serving over 5000 children in South Devon. We are coming together as three equals, with the aim of harnessing our leadership and resources to achieve the best possible outcomes for all children.

Why are we doing this?

Our central belief is that every child has the right and ability to succeed regardless of their background. By coming together into a larger group we will be better placed to achieve this aim by:

- Providing greater opportunities for students, building on the individual strengths of each school
- Recruiting and training our own teachers and other staff, offering rich continuous professional development and leadership development, with the ability to plan succession and utilise skills across all our schools
- Using our resources more effectively and efficiently, and so invest more in the teaching and learning of students

How will we do this?

We will operate in the same way as we do now, by empowering each individual school within the Trust to grow its own identity, ethos and leadership within the overall family of the Trust. We will support and grow the outstanding local leaders who we need at the heart of each school in order to bring about educational improvement. All our staff transfer to the new Trust on exactly the same terms and conditions of employment as they have now. We will be governed by a single Board, with strong Local Governing Bodies providing challenge and support in each school.

What are our core beliefs?

Our children are the future and we firmly believe that through collaborating we will provide the best possible experiences for young people. We will develop confident, articulate, enriched, academically able, global citizens, armed with a set of academic qualifications and an enthusiasm for life, who will then continue to develop the communities we serve.

We strive to provide an enriched experience, as well as academic success for all. Our schools are about hard work, enjoyment, challenge and opportunity, both for students and for staff. We place great emphasis on children and staff enjoying their time at school, doing their best and achieving as a result of a happy and engaging learning environment.

Our schools have a strong cultural ethos with sport, drama and music playing an important role. We want every child to achieve all that they are capable of and more, regardless of background, culture, heritage or ability.

We will achieve this by working in partnership with one another, and with schools, businesses, FE colleges, universities, councils and other education and training providers.

You can respond with your views by emailing tbell@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk. The Directors of the companies will consider all responses before making final decisions by the end of this term.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Bellamy

Graeme Cock

Trust Executive:

Chairs of Trust Boards:

The schools in the newly formed trust:

Ashburton Primary School	Ilington Church of England Primary School
Atrium Studio School	Kingsbridge Community School
Blackawton Primary School	Kingswear Primary School
Buckfastleigh Primary	Moretonhampstead Primary School
Christow Community Primary School	Rydon Primary School
Coomeshead Academy	South Dartmoor Community College
Dartmouth Academy	Stoke Fleming Primary School
East Allington Primary School	Teign School
	Widcombe-in-the-Moor Primary School