



Head of School
Mr Des Stokes

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Executive Head
Mrs Rachel Shaw

28th April 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

We wrote to you last term in order to seek your views on the proposed merger between Academies South West, South Dartmoor Academy Trust and Templer Academies Schools Trust. Over the last week, the Boards of all three Trusts have met separately in order to consider the consultation responses and all three have taken the decision in principle to merge the three Academy Trusts into one. The reason why we are doing this is because 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.

All staff transfer to the new Trust on exactly the same terms and conditions of service as they currently enjoy.

We now have to go through a process of gaining the approval of the Regional Schools Commissioner and Headteacher Board, designing the new governance and management structure, and carrying out the necessary legal work. Because this is such a complex task, we are aiming to do it in two stages, with ASW and TAST merging from 1st September 2016 and South Dartmoor Academy Trust joining us as soon as we can complete processes thereafter.

The White Paper published by the Government last month made clear the Government's desire to see all schools become Academies, and for Local Authorities to withdraw from the maintenance and running of schools by 2022 at the latest. We believe that this merger puts us in a position to have significant influence in this emerging landscape so that the children in our schools enjoy the very best teaching, opportunities and resources.

We look forward to an exciting future.

With best wishes

Yours faithfully

ROGER POPE
CEO, ASW

MATTHEW SHANKS
Executive Head, TAST

HUGH BELLAMY
CEO, SDAT