

19<sup>th</sup> September 2016

### Abingdon Learning Trust – Growing With Care

Dear parents, carers, staff and partners,

In April this year we wrote to parents, carers, staff and partners to let you know that our three schools (Rush Common, Fitzharrys and John Mason) were exploring the option of establishing an Abingdon based Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). We are really excited to be able to share news of our progress.

At the start of September, Rush Common Academy Trust became the Abingdon Learning Trust (ALT) in order to support this process further. The three schools felt this captured the essence of our new phase of working together, a Trust for our town, focussed on learning. We now begin the process of consultation to include Fitzharrys and John Mason schools within the ALT MAT.

An Abingdon based MAT arrangement brings many key benefits that our governing bodies feel support our improvement aims and will secure further success for everyone. These benefits are outlined in detail in the vision document and further explored in the frequently asked questions document, both of which are available on the website.

Importantly, ALT will be a MAT that has been established by local schools working together and taking charge of our own destiny. Building on the strengths of current partnerships, we have established an agreed vision, structure and approach driven by our collective strong moral purpose, local knowledge and our desire to get the very best for the students and families of our community. This local collaboration will sustain the special ethos and feel of each school and build on our strengths to bring many additional benefits for all.

We are committed to maintaining our strong existing relationships with the Abingdon Partnership of Primary and Secondary schools, and with Larkmead School and Abingdon and Witney College as part of the Abingdon Consortium for Education. We believe that the development of the Abingdon Learning Trust will strengthen education across our community, and is established so that other schools are able to join the MAT.

#### What next?

Formal consultations will take place with parents, partners and other stakeholders. Our Governing Bodies will continue to work together to identify opportunities to expand Abingdon Learning Trust. All decisions will be subject to the process of due diligence which is already underway.

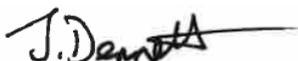
A list of Frequently Asked Questions will be made available via each school's website. Hard copies will also be available on request, to provide you with more information about the proposed development of ALT. We will be sharing more about this exciting time for the schools at open meetings in the near future.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Stevenson

Headteacher Rush Common School



Mr J Dennett

Headteacher Fitzharrys School



Mrs S Brinkley

Headteacher John Mason School

