



Sarum Academy Proposed transfer to Magna Learning Partnership

Questions collated from Staff and Community Consultations on 5th and 7th September 2017

1) What is the benefit to my child? How will it help her when she is already doing so well?

The Trust will improve standards so that every student, in each school, receives an even better education. This is because the head-teachers will be able to collaborate with each other more closely; they will be able to share effective policies and practices, for example the anti-bullying strategies have just been shared.

2) Will staff lose their jobs in order to make efficiencies?

We are not looking for efficiency savings through losing staff. Staff have so far been very supportive of the proposal to join the MLP and nobody is expected to leave because of it. The efficiencies will come through working together better. For example, rather than each school spending money on retrieving exam papers, schools will be able to share the papers.

3) Is the growth of the MLP primarily a financial matter?

The MLP will certainly help to ensure all schools become financially stronger, but primarily, the growth of the MLP is to raise even further the quality of education that children in Salisbury receive.

4) Will class sizes increase?

The desire is to increase the overall number of pupils within the MLP, but the point is to strengthen each individual school and ensure that every individual pupil receives a quality education; every policy and practise will work towards this aim; and likewise, no policy, such as large class sizes, will be adopted if it were to work against this.

5) Could governors produce more newsletters?

A great idea, and something that will definitely be looked into.

6) Will the curriculum be altered?

We, each school individually and MLP as a whole, are very committed to offering a broad curriculum. We proudly value the Arts, as well as English, Maths, Science and more traditional subjects. The MLP will only reinforce and strengthen the focus and ability to provide a broad curriculum; for example, St Edmunds has a great dance teacher, and it would be lovely for pupils at Sarum to benefit from this resource.

7) How will the trust support teacher professional development?

There will be greater collaboration among departments across the 4 schools. This will be particularly useful for small departments within the schools; for example, six Art teachers will be able to come together to share resources, whereas within each school there can often be only one. We can also learn from each other's strengths; for example, Sarum's 6th Form is particularly strong, with the average BTEC grade at a Distinction minus. We can all learn much from one another.

In addition, the MLP will provide opportunities for staff demonstrating particular expertise to gain promotions which might not be possible in a single school, which will help to retain exceptional staff.

8) How large will the MLP grow?

Trafalgar has 600 pupils; Sarum has 400; Wyvern has 300; St. Edmunds has 900. This takes the total to over 2000 pupils, and the MLP has ambitions to grow to 3000 through increasing pupil numbers at our existing schools.

There may be more schools in the area who express an interest in joining the MLP, and in each case the MLP Trust Board will consider the best interests of the pupils and schools already in the MLP.