



**SARUM  
ACADEMY**

19<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Dear Parents and community members

**RE: Invitation to attend an information and consultation open community meeting on the proposals for Sarum Academy to transfer and join the Magna Learning Partnership multi academy trust.**

We write to inform you that the governors of Sarum Academy have been exploring the possibility of joining **Magna Learning Partnership**, a local multi academy trust which currently operates three secondary schools in and around Salisbury.

We believe that by working with other local schools, we can retain our identity and will be 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 being within an established trust of local schools provides real opportunities for staff, and that a mixed economy of schools comprising mixed and single sex, church school and non-church schools, is attractive and highly beneficial to the local community.

I am pleased to inform you that we have received confirmation from the Regional Schools' Commissioner that they have approved the outline proposals to progress to the next stage. These will now be taken to the minister for final authorisation which we envisage will now happen during the summer break. Therefore, our Sarum Transfer Project Board will now develop the forward detail proposals for the next steps towards Sarum Academy formally joining the Magna Learning Partnership. As part of this process we want to ensure that we share these proposals with you and bring you up to date with the work that is being undertaken by the Sarum Transfer Project Board.

We want to hear your views on these proposals 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 the Magna Learning Partnership. We have therefore arranged to hold an open community information meeting to share our plans with you, listen to your thoughts and answer your questions. The meeting will be held on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 6.30pm** at Sarum Academy. To help us organise the event, please can you complete the return slip enclosed at the end of this letter, and return the slip into the main office by **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017**.

**What are academies?**

Academies are publicly funded schools, which are not controlled by the Local Authority and therefore have additional independence in a number of important areas. This greater independence brings increased responsibilities and opportunities to enable a school to deliver further improvements in outcomes and improve services to families in the local community.

Sarum Academy became an academy in 2010.

**What is a multi-academy trust?**

A multi-academy trust is a single, not for profit organisation which is publicly funded to operate more than one academy.

A single trust board has oversight of all the schools in the trust. Each academy retains a Local Governing Board to which the main trust board delegates much of the authority a school's Governing Body has.

Being part of a multi academy trust means that staff in all of the academies are employed by a single trust, and enables shared best practice and school improvement initiatives which broadens the scope of the opportunities given by academy status.

You can view further detail on academies and Multi Academy Trusts including the 'Model Funding Agreements' at the Department for Education website:

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

It is the considered view of Sarum Academy Governors' and the Diocese of Salisbury Education Board that the time is now right for our academy to seize the initiative and become part of a local solution for local schools to deliver increased opportunities for pupils and the community and to formally work more closely with other schools across Salisbury.

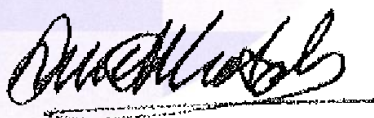
**What happens next?** We await the final decision from the minister and are now developing the more detailed proposals. We will be entering a consultation period running from **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September until Thursday 21st September 2017**. During this period we will be consulting with parents/carers, pupils, staff, unions, governors, the Diocese, the local community, including churches where appropriate and other local schools. In addition to this open meeting, further details on the Magna Learning Partnership can be accessed at [www.magnalearningpartnership.org](http://www.magnalearningpartnership.org)

Should you have any comments or queries then please e-mail us by 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017 at [jean.campbell@sarumacademy.org](mailto:jean.campbell@sarumacademy.org) or write to our Chair of Governors care of the Headteachers PA. We will publish and update a Frequently Asked Questions section on the academy's website with any questions or concerns that might emerge during the consultation phase. The current version can be accessed on [the Academy's website](http://theAcademy's website) or obtained on request from the Academy.

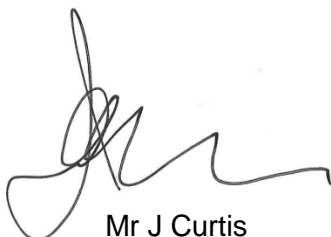
We are mindful of our public sector equality duty arising from the Equality Act 2010 and will develop our proposals to mitigate the likelihood of any adverse impact. If you are, or become, aware during this consultation process of any impact on members of the academy community who share a relevant protected 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, but in the meantime, if you have any queries, please email them to [jean.campbell@sarumacademy.org](mailto:jean.campbell@sarumacademy.org)

Yours sincerely



Mr D Middleton  
Chair of Governors



Mr J Curtis  
Headteacher

**The proposed Magna Learning Partnership communication and consultation**

**I will be attending the information and consultation meeting to be held at Sarum Academy on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 6.30pm.**

Your Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pupil's name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation/School (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact tel number: \_\_\_\_\_

Stakeholder type (please tick all that apply)

Parent/Carer  Governor/Trustee  Staff Member at Sarum Academy

Pupil  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 Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Thank you.**