

28 April 2017

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Dear Parent/Carer

Building a stronger future for the Bulwell Academy

Schools across Nottingham City have been involved in a process of converting to Academies and grouping together to form Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs). This is part of the Government's drive to deliver a school-led system by reducing the direct involvement of local authorities on educational services. The process has been directed by the office of the Regional Schools Commissioner and has been focused on grouping local schools together.

As you may be aware, The Bulwell Academy is co-sponsored by The Edge Foundation and Thomas Telford School, one of the top performing schools in the country. With their strong support, the Academy has seen many improvements over the past five years.

Following a decision by the Regional Schools Commissioner, the Academy has been informed that it will be subject to re-sponsorship to bring it into a local MAT. Whilst this news is disappointing, as we will be losing our links to our current sponsors, the involvement of a local sponsor and MAT will potentially provide the Academy with greater access to resources and collaborative programmes in the region, and give us greater involvement in local initiatives.

At present, the Governors and sponsors are working with the office of the Regional Schools Commissioner to ensure a suitable local sponsor is selected and a smooth transition takes place. I can assure you that these changes will take place keeping the importance of your child's education at the forefront; the staff at the Academy remain firmly committed to ensuring the best outcomes for all our students.

I am confident that the future of the Academy is bright and that our students will continue to flourish in a supportive and positive environment. As the Principal, my role is to embody the values and ethos of the Academy and its sponsors, and the planned change of sponsorship has caused me to reflect upon my position. A new sponsor will bring their own vision to the school and I feel that they should be allowed to do this with their own choice of principal. To this end, I have informed Governors that I will be standing down at the end of the year to allow this to take place.

The Edge Foundation and Thomas Telford School remain resolute in their support of the Academy whilst a local sponsor is determined. In the likely event that the process is not resolved prior to my departure, the Governing Board has appointed an interim Principal to ensure a smooth transition is achieved and that there is minimal disruption to the education of your child.

From 1 September, Vic Maher will take over as Principal of the Academy. Mr Maher is a highly respected educationalist and has many years of experience as a Headteacher and Executive Headteacher. Mr Maher has successfully led a number of schools and most recently, has been involved in driving improvements at the Milton Keynes Academy. Having worked with Mr Maher previously, I know he is a strong leader and will ensure the Academy continues to be the great school it is.

Mr Maher will be working within the Academy throughout the coming term and will have the opportunity to meet with students and staff in preparation for his start in September.

Please share this information with your child and I would appreciate your support in keeping them settled and focused as we prepare for the busy examination period.

Yours sincerely



Ian Williams
Principal