



DORRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

STATION ROAD, DORRIDGE, SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS, B93 8EU

Head Teacher : Mrs R Ashe

Chair of Governors : Mrs A Fisher

Wednesday 28th September 2022

Dear Parents,

We are writing to inform you that Dorridge Primary School has been invited to join the Arden Multi-Academy Trust, to form and lead a new Primary school branch of the trust. The Senior Management Team and the Board of Governors have carried out detailed initial evaluations of this invitation and any alternatives. We believe this is an exciting opportunity for our school which should be considered further very seriously. It offers us the prospect of forming a local educational partnership, working more closely with our neighbouring secondary school in particular and developing new opportunities for our children, staff and the wider community. The invitation recognises the strength of our leadership team, who have consistently demonstrated the skills to inspire, innovate and communicate, providing the critical tools that this venture would require.

We know that this proposal will raise a variety of questions and attached to this letter we have included Stakeholder Frequently Asked Questions about Academy Conversion explaining the process and exploring how this would directly affect the children of Dorridge, both now and in the future, if we pursue it.

As part of the consultation process, we invite parents to a presentation by Martin Murphy, CEO of AMAT, Damian Burgess, Executive Head of AMAT, Dorridge Primary Senior Team and Dorridge Primary Governing Body to talk through the process and most importantly what it might mean for the children, families and staff at Dorridge. There will be an opportunity for parents to ask questions, both in advance and during the evening. These will be collated by our Clerk to Governors and formally recorded as part of the consultation. We will also hold an informal drop-in session with our Senior Team to give parents an alternative opportunity to discuss the proposal.

Please follow this link to register your attendance and/or submit any questions in advance of the events:

<https://forms.office.com/r/UyeDwseMF6>

Consultation Process

- Consultation opens: Wednesday 28th September 4.00pm
- Staff consultation: Tuesday 18th October 3.45pm
- Presentation to parents with AMAT CEO Martin Murphy: Wednesday 19th October 7pm KS2 Hall
- Informal drop in session with Dorridge Senior Team: Thursday 20th October 2.15pm KS2 Hall
- Formal response to stakeholder questions: Wednesday 9th November
- Consultation closes: Wednesday 16th November 4.00pm

This letter represents the start of our formal consultation process. The Governing Body has not yet decided whether or not to form part of the Arden Multi Academy Trust. The Governing Body will make a decision after we have heard and considered the opinions of Parents/Carers, Local Authority and our staff. If the venture is approved, the proposed conversion date would be 1st April 2023.

Kind regards

Antoinette Fisher, Chair of Governors and Ben Williams, Vice Chair of Governors