



Rothersthorpe C.E Primary School

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17th January 2022

Dear Parents

Local Authority Maintained Schools and Multi Academy Trusts

In September 2021, all Church of England Maintained schools received a letter from Peter Cantley, the Director of Education at Peterborough Diocese. Schools were informed that the Department for Education is looking for all Local Authority maintained schools to become academies; to create a 'fully academised school system'. Shortly after this letter, our Local Authority, Northamptonshire County Council, informed all their maintained schools that the Finance and HR service level agreement would end on the 31st March 2022, and that schools would need to research other companies to provide this essential school service.

Rothersthorpe School Governors have been researching local academies since 2017 and are well aware of the changes that lie ahead. As a church school, and part of The Peterborough Diocese, we are only able to move to a Multi Academy Trust that has been agreed by The Diocese. This is to ensure that we preserve the 'Christian ethos' of our school. There are eight local Multi Academies Trusts, (MATs) which are supported by Peterborough Diocese.

After much research, presentations and challenging questions, our School Governors have decided to plan the way ahead to move to a small local trust called, 'Innovate Multi-Academy Trust, (iMAT). This Trust currently includes four village primary schools: Weedon-Bec, Badby, Kilsby and Woodford-Halse.

As Rothersthorpe is quite a unique school; the school hall is also the Village hall, it is extremely important to join a Trust that ensures their schools 'remain at the heart of their local village'; retain their individual ethos and characteristics; continue their close relationships with their local communities. With this in mind, we attach the 'Equality Impact Statement' to show that School Governors will maintain the excellent relationship between the school, staff, pupils, parents, village hall, parish council, church and villagers.

Joining a Multi Academy Trust can bring many positive benefits and support to the school, pupils, staff and community. We feel that as an 'excellent graded school' we can also enhance any Trust that we join.

As part of the process of moving to an Academy we will be providing further information to all school stakeholders. The School Governing Body would like to invite you to the 'first consultation meeting' via Zoom regarding the process of moving to Innovate Multi Academy Trust, (iMAT).

Our Chair of Governors, Fiona Newitt, Headteacher, Mrs Fountain and the CEO of iMAT, Mr Antony Witheyman will be presenting:

Why move to an Academy?

Why choose Innovate Multi Academy Trust, (iMAT)?

What will be the impact on all stakeholders of moving to iMAT?

Monday 24th January 2022 at 7pm via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87368094905?pwd=U1U2YlVtenR6VWpPMWhBNFptS0xBdz09>

Meeting ID: 873 6809 4905

Passcode: EQ28G8

All Staff and The Village Hall Committee have already received their first consultation meeting and we have received excellent feedback so far. We hope that you can find the time to attend this meeting. After the meeting if you have any questions, please forward them to our Chair of Governors, Mrs Fiona Newitt: FNewitt@rothersthorpe.northants.sch.uk

We look forward to meeting as many parents as possible and including everyone in the next part of Rothersthorpe School's journey.

Kind regards

Nicola Fountain

Mrs Fountain – Headteacher

Mrs Fiona Newitt – Chair of Governors on behalf of all Rothersthorpe School Governors