



Thursday 12th January 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: the proposal for Bridgewater High School to convert from a Single Academy Trust (SAT) to form a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) called The Challenge Academy Trust.

We are consulting with you regarding the Governing Body's proposal to form a Multi Academy Trust alongside the following institutions: Beamont Collegiate Academy, Great Sankey Primary School, Penketh High School, Penketh South Primary School, Priestley Sixth Form College and Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School. This follows an extensive period of due diligence and discussion by the Governing Bodies of all institutions including meetings with the Regional Schools Commissioner and the Department for Education.

Bridgewater's Governing Body sees significant advantages to forming TCAT including the following:

- Students will benefit from even better resources as collaborative working will help strengthen Bridgewater's curriculum pathways. For example, by being part of the MAT, Bridgewater will be able to offer a more enriched delivery of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)
- Students will potentially be able to access and take advantage of a wider set of facilities and resources within the MAT
- Working collaboratively has already helped strengthen the expertise and professional development of a number of Bridgewater teachers and is something we would like to build on
- Bridgewater, as a founder member of the MAT, will be able to remain fully focused upon its own students and unique character whilst being able to take advantage of the wider capacity and experience of other institutions in the MAT
- Bridgewater values and respects the strong partnerships it currently has with, for example, its partner primaries. Because Bridgewater and the MAT believe in being inclusive, Bridgewater remains committed to enjoying, developing and strengthening these relationships
- Bridgewater's Governing Body, which includes a number of parent governors, has been able to drive and shape the vision and principles of the MAT such that they enshrine many of the core values that have made Bridgewater so successful over the years.
- Bridgewater will be able to build further upon its established position as a National Support School, led by the Principal who is a National Leader of Education and the Chair of Governors who is a National Leader of Governance, by drawing upon and developing outstanding practice within the MAT
- At a time of financial austerity and challenging school budgets, Bridgewater will be able to work more efficiently with its resources by being part of a large MAT to offer the best value for money in terms of education for its students

(cont....)

Principal

Tim Long BA (Oxon)
MA Ed, P.G.C.E., N.P.Q.H

Headteacher Lower School

Tracey Hatton
BA Hons, P.G.C.E., N.P.Q.H

Headteacher Upper School

Keiron Powell
BA Hons, QTS

We have prepared a consultation document that is available at www.tcat.uk.com which provides more detail about this proposal, including our rationale and the potential benefits we feel this will have for staff, students and pupils at Bridgewater High School. If you would like us to send you a hard copy please ring the school on 01925 263919 or email us at l.hyde@bridgewaterhigh.com and we will send you one.

We would be very grateful if you could take the time to respond to the consultation by completing the on-line survey proforma at: www.tcat.uk.com/feedback/. The survey in its simplest form will not take long to complete. We are keen to capture all viewpoints and do also welcome longer and fuller responses. Alternatively please feel free to complete the proforma in the consultation document and return it to: The Clerk of Governors, Bridgewater High School, Broomfields Road, Warrington, WA4 3AE.

In addition we will be holding two Open Evenings to support the consultation process. You are welcome to attend either and so that we can manage numbers we would appreciate it if you contact the respective school in advance should you wish to attend. The consultation process closes on Thursday 9th February at 12 noon after which we will publish our response.

Venue	Time & date	Contact
Bridgewater High School Broomfields Road Warrington Cheshire WA4 3AE	7.00 pm Monday 23 rd January	l.hyde@bridgewaterhigh.com
Great Sankey Primary School Liverpool Road Great Sankey Warrington Cheshire WA5 1SB	7.00 pm Monday 30 th January	GreatSankey_Primary@warrington.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,



Tim Long
Principal Bridgewater High School



Stephen Whatmore
Chair of Governors Bridgewater High School