



Loushers Lane Warrington WA4 6RD Tel. 01925 633591

www.priestley.ac.uk / enquiries@priestley.ac.uk

Principal: Matthew Grant

12 January 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Proposed Conversion to Academy Status

I am writing with regard to the proposal for Priestley College to become an academy

1) Feedback on our initial consultation on the proposed dissolution of Priestley Sixth Form College prior to the conversion to Priestley College a 16-19 Academy

The consultation ran from 5 October through to 30 November and the College's written response has now been published and can be found at www.priestley.ac.uk

I'd like to thank everyone who took the time to give feedback on the proposal and I'm able to report that 81% of those who responded to the consultation were in favour of the proposal.

2) The proposal for Priestley College to now become a 16-19 Academy and become part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) called The Challenge Academy Trust together with a number of partners

We would now like to update our consultation with you regarding the Governing Body's proposal to convert to a 16-19 Academy and form a Multi Academy Trust alongside the following schools:

- Beamont Collegiate High School
- Bridgewater High School
- Great Sankey Primary School
- Penketh High School
- Penketh South Primary School
- 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. Much of the rationale for Priestley seeking to become an academy is set out in our first consultation document, however at this point we wish to point out the following:

- Priestley has always worked collaboratively with schools and colleges similar in their outlook and vision for the aspirations and outcomes of young people. We are a college that aims to inspire, challenge and support all of our students to achieve their full potential and believe that by working more closely with a number of partners we can be more effective in delivering our vision. Contd



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- The government's white paper **Educational Excellence Everywhere** published last year echoes that ethos, recognising that Multi Academy Trusts are able in a more formal structure to bring together leadership, autonomy, funding and accountability across a group of schools and colleges with a purpose of mutual support. Priestley students deserve the enhanced educational, employment and capital investment opportunities that joining and helping shape TCAT will bring both now and long into the future.

We have prepared a general consultation document that is available on the following website 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 and students at Priestley College. If you would like us to send you a hard copy please contact Carol Blinkhorn at Priestley on 01925 633591 or email c.blinkhorn@priestley.ac.uk and we will send you a copy.

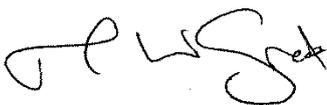
You have already had the opportunity to respond to the original proposal but we would be very grateful if you would complete the on-line proforma if you have any further comments. Alternatively, please feel free either to download a version or complete the proforma in the consultation document and return it to: The Clerk of Governors, c/o Carol Blinkhorn, Priestley College, Loushers Lane, Warrington, WA4 6RD.

In addition, together with the proposed partners, 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 appropriate school in advance should you wish to attend.

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

We will also be holding information events for staff and students in Priestley during this further consultation period which runs from Thursday 12 January through to 12.00 mid-day on Thursday 9 February.

Yours faithfully



Matthew Grant
Principal & Chief Executive



Reg Haslam
Chair of Governors