

20th June 2016

Dear Parents / Carers

Multi-Academy Trust Consultation

As you are aware, both Goldington Academy and The Hills Academy are supported by their own academy trusts. It is proposed that the academy trusts will convert to a single multi-academy trust (MAT), meaning that the MAT can support more than one academy school. We would propose that in the first instance the MAT would include Goldington Academy and The Hills Academy, when its funding agreement is granted. We are consulting on this proposal between 20th June to 15th July 2016.

What will becoming a MAT mean for Goldington Academy (GA) and The Hills Academy (THA)?

Currently GA and THA are supported by their own academy trusts. If the schools form a MAT, the governance arrangements for the current trusts will change. Currently GA has 3 members and 15 trustees and THA has 3 members and 13 trustees. We are proposing a change in name to Goldington Hills Multi-Academy Trust, which will have 5 members and no fewer than 7 trustees. Goldington Hills Multi-Academy Trust would be the board for the MAT. Goldington Academy would then have its own local governing body, as would The Hills Academy.

What are the benefits of being a MAT?

In the opinion of both schools the benefits are numerous:

- High quality governance with a clear focus on strategic development, teaching and learning, and accountability;
- Building sustainability through strategic succession planning;
- The opportunity for teachers and support staff to share good practice and to benefit from a common professional development programme that adds real value to the education of all students in both academies;
- The ability to support other schools, in particular local primary schools in the future
- Efficiencies in administrative functions and joint procurement, which will help us in these more austere times to the advantage of the students.

Are there any disadvantages to becoming a MAT?

As a MAT, the central board of trustees will be accountable for any other academies that join the MAT, not just Goldington Academy and The Hills Academy. This means increased responsibility. However, as part of the conversion process, the governing body will ensure that careful decisions are taken to ensure that the right governance structure and systems are in place to successfully operate more than one academy.

What else will change?

We do not intend to change anything else about the day to day operation of both GA and THA as a result of converting to MAT.

How can I find out more?

There is a document called frequently asked questions, which can be collected from the offices of both schools and will be on both school websites.

If you have any unanswered questions, please email:

Mrs Justine Henderson:
hendersonj@goldington.bbvtle.com

or Mrs Moya Whitehead:
headteacher@thehillsacademy.co.uk

and we will endeavour to assist.

How can I make representations?

The closing date for making representations is Friday 15th July 2016.

A consultation meeting will be held at Goldington Academy on Wednesday 22nd June 2016 from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

Representations can be made in writing to:

GA and THA MAT Consultation
Goldington Academy
Haylands Way
Bedford
MK41 9BX

Or by email to: feedback@goldington.bbvtle.com

Have your say.

We would like to develop our vision in partnership with all members of our community and therefore value your input. Details of how you can be involved will follow.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs D Field
Chair of Governors
Goldington Academy



Mr C Jones
Chair of Governors
The Hills Academy



Mr F X Galbraith
Principal
Goldington Academy



Mrs M Whitehead
Headteacher
The Hills Academy