



Friday, 18 March 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

These are exciting but challenging times in education. One way in which schools can meet these challenges is by working in partnership with other schools. Your child currently attends a school that works in partnership with a number of other Nottinghamshire schools. These schools are now proposing to form a brand new Multi-Academy Trust (MAT), called Nova Education Trust.

If successful, Nova Education Trust will be formed by merging the Torch Academy Gateway Trust, Djanogly Learning Trust, Nottingham University Samworth Academies Trust and the Nottingham University Academy of Science and Technology Trust. The proposal is that this new MAT, comprising 6 secondary schools and 4 primary schools, will begin operating from 1st September 2016.

Why are the trusts merging?

The four Education Trusts involved have been education partners since 2014, during which time it has become clear that each Trust has different skills and specialisms. By merging the Trusts, we can plan long term developments that will directly benefit all of our pupils, by improving standards of teaching and widening the range of enrichment opportunities on offer.

How will it affect my local school?

The merger of the four Trusts is about bringing together professional skills, ideas and good practice at all levels. Individual schools will continue to make their own decisions about how best to serve their own pupils. School names, uniforms, school days and holiday patterns for example, will be unaffected.

What will happen in schools is that teaching and support staff will have better access to central support services, opportunities to access the very best staff training and a wider support network of fellow professionals. Teachers will contribute to, and benefit from collaborative efforts to produce high quality teaching resources and assessment tools.

The merger would also support the development of a wider range of enrichment opportunities for students through sporting competitions, creative collaborations and access to a breadth of academic providers beyond that of a single institution.

By being part of the Nova Education Trust you will have the peace of mind that your child's school is being supported by a local trust that is totally committed to raising education standards in Nottinghamshire.

Consultation Period

As part of the proposed merger, we are undertaking an 8-week consultation process.

This process will provide all interested parties with the opportunity to comment on the proposed formation of the Nova Education Trust.

The consultation period will run from 21st March to 24th May 2016. During this time your response can be submitted via our website:

www.novaeducationtrust.net

or sent by post to the following address:

Nova Education Trust
Consultation Response
Toot Hill School
The Banks
Bingham
NG13 8BL

We will publish the findings of the consultation on this website after the 27th May 2016.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



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Some of your questions answered

Will the name of my child's school change?

The proposed new trust does not plan to change any school names.

Will my child's school uniform change?

The proposed new trust does not plan to change any school uniforms. Your child's school uniform will stay the same unless your school, at a local level, wishes to change the uniform.

Will the times of the school day change?

The proposed trust does not intend to impose a standard school day. The times of the school day will continue to be decided by schools at a local level.

Will the school holiday dates change?

The proposed trust does not intend to impose a standard holiday pattern. School holiday dates will continue to be decided by schools at a local level.

Will my child still get Free School Meals?

Parents will still be able to access Free School Meals if their child is eligible.

Who controls the school budget?

Local Governing Bodies (LGB), Head Teachers and/or Executive Head Teachers will continue to control the deployment of school budgets.

LGBs will be responsible to the proposed Nova Education Trust's Board of Directors for ensuring financial probity and securing best value from any monies received.

Will my child's class size increase?

Class sizes and other operational matters will continue to be decided by schools at a local level. The proposed merger will not cause larger class sizes.

Will the staff at my child's school change?

No, if the proposed merger occurs, staff will remain at their current locations. Of course, staff may choose to apply for promotions within the trust or outside but this will be a product of individual choice and not a consequence of the merger.

Will the school still follow the same systems for reporting to parents/carers?

Schools will continue to communicate with parents in line with individual school policies.

Will staff jobs be safe?

The merger will not directly result in staff redundancies although individual schools will continue to review staffing on an ongoing basis as they have always done.

Will my child notice any differences?

No, schools will operate just the same way as they did before if the merger takes place. The only change will be the greater security built in through their academy being part of a large trust and the associated development of improved teaching and learning.