



Inspiring children through excellence

4th November 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Consultation regarding joining a Multi Academy Trust

In June we updated you on our latest thinking about applying for academy status and we indicated that we were beginning to look at joining GLF Schools, a local Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

We are now in a position to share our ideas on improved support for The Dawnay School and to seek your involvement in this decision. Whilst our proposal is recommended by governors and the Leadership Team, this is a true consultation exercise and your involvement will play a part in the eventual decision.

The Executive Headteacher, Head of School, the staff and the governors are passionate about the continued drive for excellence and ensuring that our children receive the very best education. The governors have been exploring for some time now the best way to support the school in achieving this.

Increased Support and Opportunity

The support we get from Surrey County Council Education Department has decreased over the years and is now very limited. For The Dawnay School to achieve our ambitious improvement goals we need to develop and extend our expertise. We can't do this without obtaining support from the wider educational community. The governors have looked at many options as we wanted to find a solution that was right for our school and our children and importantly one that would support our ethos.

Our Proposal

After extensive discussions, we have concluded that academising and joining a Multi Academy Trust which is based on a model of mutual support between local Surrey schools is in the best interests of our pupils and staff. Discussions have led us to conclude that joining GLF Schools would provide the best immediate and future support for the school. This proposal is recommended by the governors and by the Leadership Team. We are therefore launching a period of consultation with staff and with parents to ensure that we have considered all views before reaching a conclusion. We would welcome your involvement in this process and your feedback on the benefits of the proposed arrangement.

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We are proposing this step because we believe that it is in the school's best interest, not because we have been required to do so by the DfE, Ofsted or any other external body. This is an entirely voluntary arrangement which we would enter as equals, both giving and receiving support.

GLF Schools

Details of GLF Schools can be found at www.glfschools.org. You will see that GLF Schools is a Multi Academy Trust centred upon the National Support School status of Glyn School in Epsom, with local clusters of schools. GLF Schools' motto is 'where children grow, learn and flourish' and they are committed to developing their school improvement strategy across all sectors.

GLF have been a DfE approved sponsor academy since late 2011 but have chosen to grow steadily so that they can be sure that all schools within the MAT are able to 'grow, learn and flourish' themselves. Within GLF Schools there is a mixture of "sponsored" academies, currently in need of support from other schools, and stronger good and outstanding schools that will benefit from providing that support. There are also new schools in the group, providing opportunities for some staff to extend their experience without changing employer.

As a Multi Academy Trust, GLF Schools aspires to create a group of academies that have a reputation for delivering an outstanding education for all children and students. Each school serves to meet the needs of its local community and all are united in their core purpose of providing an outstanding educational experience.

Whilst operating as a part of a family, each school exists in its own right maintaining its own unique characteristics and individual identity.

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Learning and teaching are the core purpose of GLF Schools; as a MAT, it is committed to raising the aspirations and achievement of children and young people through:

- Outstanding leadership at all levels
- Inspiring learning and support for all delivered by dynamic and passionate professionals
- Instilling a sense of challenge, enjoyment and passion for learning
- A curriculum, unique to each school, which suits the needs of its children in their local community

Our Existing Links with GLF Schools

For over a year we have had the benefit of working closely with GLF Schools. During this time they have provided the school with important leadership, administrative, and curriculum support. We believe that the support from GLF significantly helped us to deliver school improvement during the last academic year.

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Next Steps

We are seeking views on the proposal to join GLF Schools through an online survey questionnaire which can be found by clicking on the following link: [Link to consultation survey](#). The survey will also be available in paper form at the school office.

The closing date for replies is Friday 29 November 2019. We encourage you to learn more about GLF Schools from their website (and to attend the meeting mentioned below if you are able) before letting us have your views.

A meeting for parents will be held on Wednesday 20 November 2019 at 7pm at The Dawnay School. At the meeting there will be a short presentation during which we will recap the proposal followed by an opportunity to ask questions to representatives of the school, governing board and GLF Schools.

The results of the survey will be considered by the governing board at a meeting where we will discuss the feedback received and will reach a final decision.

I hope that you have found this letter a helpful introduction to our reasons for proposing that The Dawnay School joins GLF Schools.

We look forward to your involvement in this important decision.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Rourke
Chair of Governors

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