

12th May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Futura Learning Partnership Board of Trustees to update you on an important development for our trust.

As trustees we are responsible for determining the strategic direction of the trust and for ensuring the success of all the schools within the trust. In our Strategy to 2025, we set out our intention to seek opportunities for further growth to secure our future as a strong trust, providing greater school improvement capacity and capability, and more robust resources to support our schools, whilst maintaining the strong vision, values and ethos that we have built since the start of the trust in 2014.

I am pleased to tell you we have been approached by Clevedon Learning Trust (CLT) who are seeking to merge with a like-minded trust that shares similar values. The CLT initiated these discussions as part of their work to replace their CEO who is retiring at the end of the school year 2021-22. This work included talking to a number of trusts about a merger and, following discussions and an initial due diligence investigation, the trustees of Clevedon Learning Trust (CLT) and Futura Learning Partnership (Futura) have voted in principle, and unanimously, to merge the two trusts and create one strong trust.

We believe strongly that this proposed merger will be in the best interests of our pupils and staff and will create a strong and resilient trust with the capacity to deliver exceptional educational outcomes for our schools both now and in the future. It is very much in line with the government's intention, published in the recent Schools White Paper, for every school to be part of a strong multi-academy trust by 2030.

Clevedon Learning Trust has 13 schools, with 4, 600 pupils, in the Clevedon and Bridgwater areas and runs a cross-phase model of primary and secondary schools working together, in a similar way to us. Both sets of trustees believe there are many similarities between our trusts, such as:

- Common values, culture and ethos as a 'family of schools' working together for mutual benefit
- Commitment to an inclusive, all-through organisation, based on a shared understanding of the whole educational journey, 3 - 19
- Strong commitment to working with the communities our schools serve, with each school retaining an identity that is reflective of its community
- Strong commitment to being an excellent employer, an 'employer of choice', supporting staff workload and well-being, investing in training and providing opportunities for growth and career development

As trustees, we will now undertake a detailed due diligence exercise and are working with Clevedon Learning Trust and the department for education to gain approval for the merger. If this is granted, it is anticipated that the merger will go ahead for September 2023.

In conclusion, I would like to say, this is an exciting opportunity for the future of our pupils and staff. The size of an academy trust really matters as it creates the capacity to drive forward school improvement and deliver the best outcomes for our pupils and provides also the necessary building blocks to enable pupils to succeed in later life. This is our mission, our purpose, our duty and we very much hope you will be part of our journey as together we move towards merging the two academy trusts into one single body.

Best wishes

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Broad', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Malcolm Broad MBE

Chair of Trustees

Futura Learning Partnership