

Date: 17th March 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Proposal to establish a Multi Academy Trust

You should be aware that, for some time, Ruskin Community High School and Sandbach High School and Sixth Form College have been working in partnership. Both schools share a clear vision and both schools have students at the heart of what we do.

Nationally, you will be conscious that schools are facing increasing challenges not least financial and that the Government is encouraging schools to become Academies and thereafter grouping Academies into a Multi Academy Trust. Locally, the majority of secondary schools are academies with several having already established themselves as 'MATs'.

Our Governing Bodies recognise the collaborative working our two schools have been engaged in and now believe that the time is right for us to formalise our partnership-working by entering into a Multi Academy Trust, to be known as The Saxon Crosses MAT. Crucially, whilst enjoying the benefits of continued shared working, each school will retain its own identity within the Trust. For example, each school will retain its own uniform reflecting our respective commitment to the local community being served, retain its own Governing Body including local parental representation, and each school will have its own Headteacher.

We firmly believe that our students and staff will benefit from the opportunities that a formal MAT will bring and these include:

- enriching the curriculum through shared resources
- developing our staff through collaborative learning and teaching opportunities
- extending the learning gains for our combined students
- making budget savings in an increasingly frugal context
- building mutual accountability and challenge through shared working.

We are now consulting with our stakeholders. The consultation period will be from Monday 20th March to Tuesday 2nd May 2017. Thereafter, our respective Governing Bodies will consider the comments received before making a final decision. If it is decided that a MAT is to be established, our planned conversion date is 1st June 2017.

Ruskin Governors are seeking views from their stakeholders on whether their school should become an Academy and then enter into a Multi Academy Trust (a formal partnership agreement) with Sandbach High School and Sixth Form College from 1st June 2017. Governors from Sandbach HSSFC are consulting on establishing a MAT and then entering in to a formal partnership with Ruskin.

This consultation is open to every stakeholder and community member and comments would, therefore, be welcomed from all.

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On our respective websites, you will be able to read the 'Frequently Asked Questions' relating to the setting up of a MAT. In addition, we are holding an open forum at Ruskin Community High School on Tuesday, 2nd May 2017 at 7pm. Parents, carers and community representatives from both schools are invited to attend to hear more about our plans and to ask any questions. The deadline for receipt of comments is Monday, 10th April 2017.

We look forward to receiving your comments and/or seeing you at 7pm on 2nd May at Ruskin High School.

Very best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Mrs E Brett
Headteacher
Ruskin CHS



Mr J M Leigh
Headteacher
Sandbach HSSFC