



20 June 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Proposal to Create the Berkhamsted Educational Trust

The school Governing Body has been carefully considering the future strategy for Ashlyns School given the wider Government policy on education and the running of schools.

Our school is performing well with a current Ofsted judgement of good. However, in an increasingly challenging educational landscape, we recognise that maintaining and improving school performance needs a fresh and sustainable plan. We believe that the proposal below will enable us to provide an even better educational experience for our children at Ashlyns School and young people in the town.

The proposed plan

Governors and Headteachers from five schools in Berkhamsted have been exploring how to develop deeper school-to-school partnership for a few months, having already seen some of the benefits of highly effective collaborative working. These schools are:

- Ashlyns School
- Bridgewater Primary School
- Greenway Primary & Nursery School
- Swing Gate Infant School & Nursery
- Westfield Primary School & Nursery

The schools' Governing Bodies and Headteachers have developed a proposal to create a new multi academy trust, The Berkhamsted Educational Trust.

We are confident that the Berkhamsted Educational Trust would enable each school to build on their existing strengths through even greater collaboration and joint working between member schools.

The proposed multi academy trust would be established in November 2017 by all five schools, which would each convert to academy status.

We would wish to reassure you and the wider community within Berkhamsted that we would continue to work collaboratively with all the town's church schools.

We have set out in more detail the plan, benefits, vision and management of the proposed Berkhamsted Educational Trust in the attached document. Please take time to read this important document so you can see how this change will benefit your children.

Consultation on the proposed plan

Governors wish to consult with parents, carers, staff, students and the wider school community on the proposal. The consultation will run from Tuesday 20 June until Friday 14 July.

We would like to invite parents and carers to attend a joint meeting at Ashlyns School at 7.30pm on Monday 3 July.

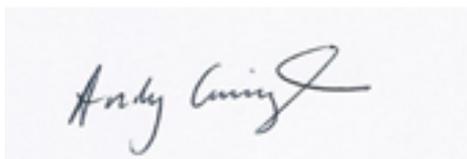
The Headteacher, James Shapland, Governors and colleagues from the other schools will make a brief presentation before giving you the chance to have any questions answered about what the proposal will mean for our school as well as schools across Berkhamsted.

Please e-mail any specific questions you have, or areas of interest relating to the proposal you will wish to know more about, to **academy.consultation.survey@gmail.com** by **Friday 30 June**.

We are also conducting an online survey (paper copies are available on request) to understand your views before making a final decision at the end of July 2017, <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/betrust>. The survey will go live after the meetings on 3 July.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday 3 July.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Cunningham', written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Andy Cunningham
Chair of Governors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Shapland', written on a light-colored rectangular background.

James Shapland
Headteacher