



25th May 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

After several months of discussions, visits and explorations of potential partnerships we are pleased to announce that St Helen's Church of England Primary, Great Torrington School and Beaford Community Primary and Nursery school are proposing to form a Multi Academy Trust from Spring 2017.

As you may be aware over the recent weeks there have been changes to the political stance regarding all schools converting to academies. However, the perceived and experienced benefits to the communities of all three schools in terms of learning and extra-curricular opportunities for children, high quality training and professional development for staff and the ability to share skills, knowledge and resources as appropriate across the Multi Academy Trust have been recognised. It is on this basis that we want to pursue this partnership.

The Christian distinctiveness and ethos in St Helen's will not in any way be diluted through the posted formation of this MAT and partnership of schools. The founding of this proposed partnership is not driven by designated catchment area; but by a shared vision for and commitment to education and learning for all pupils and staff in our three schools.

After half term there will be a formal consultation process for all stakeholders. This will include: pupils, parents, the wider community, the Diocese Education Board, local schools and the Local Authority. During this consultation process there will be a meeting for stakeholders to gain further information as well as opportunities to provide your written feedback and comments.

Over the coming months more information will be provided to keep you informed of this proposal and the consultation process. Also attached is a collection of 'Frequently Asked Questions'.

Yours faithfully,

Alison Bennett, Chair of Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School

Gill Marlow & Paul Jarrett (Joint Chairs of St Helen's Primary School)

Peter Villiers, Chair of Great Torrington School (GTS Academy Trust)