



Where Pupils Achieve and Excel

Headteacher: Mrs T Price BA (Hons) MA Ed

22nd March 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Stakeholders

Consultation to become part of an existing Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)

Governors are proposing that James Bateman Junior High School becomes part of a pre-existing Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) and join with the Creative Learning Partnership Trust as an equal partner with the Schools that already form this MAT.

The Schools that are already part of this MAT are:

- Hempstalls Primary School
- Thursfield Primary School
- Parkside Primary School

In considering joining this MAT the over-riding concerns of Governors are to ensure that our School continues to provide the highest level of education possible for our children and ensure that they continue to achieve and excel. With this in mind it is very important to us that we hear your views and thoughts on this proposal. The key points of converting to Academy status and joining this MAT are ones that are vital in the view of governors and these are detailed below:-

- We are proposing that we change our School's name to James Bateman Middle School, which reflects the school more appropriately. We believe this is a positive step and hopefully will assist in removing some of the confusion that the title junior high brings with it. This will not require any changes to the current school uniform.
- We will retain our character and the school will continue to look, feel and be the same as it is now we will have the same school times and holiday patterns. The changes in the main will be behind the scenes and will not affect the way in which pupils experience their school environment.
- Governors are proposing that we look at the admissions policy to ensure it remains suitable for future use.
- Joining the MAT does not affect your choice of secondary school for your child. We will continue to work with our local schools to ensure the transition into and out of James Bateman Junior High is as successful as possible for our pupils.

James Bateman Junior High School, Park Lane, Knypersley, Staffordshire, ST8 7AT.

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- The Headteacher and the Governing Body will continue to lead the school and the school will continue to have its own Governing Body, which provides scrutiny to the way in which the school is run and led. Parents will continue to be represented on the Governing body.
- The MAT arrangements will provide the opportunity to share some services across all of the schools which will help us all be more efficient and ensure that funding is focused on our pupils, their learning and the teaching that supports them.

Academy status is becoming more common and as budgets are reducing local authorities are reducing the services they make available to schools. By looking at this change now we can choose how we want our school to develop whilst ensuring we maintain our own identity and ethos as a school.

It is our opinion as a Governing Body that joining the Creative Learning Partnership Trust will: -

- Help us continue in our ambition to ensure that our learning environment is one which is enjoyable and enriching and one where we work with every pupil to nurture their individual abilities and to equip them for success, both academically and in terms of life skills,
- Give us great freedom in developing the school curriculum to ensure it is personalised to the needs of our pupils whilst ensuring that our focus is on the educational attainment of our pupils,
- Provide economic benefits such as sharing of services as well as being able to benefit from greater buying power as a collective,
- Enable us to support each other as schools as the support from the local authority reduces,
- Increase the flexibility and freedoms around the way in which the school budget and funds are spent in order to best meet the priorities of the school and our pupils,
- Provide opportunities for our staff to develop their skills further and to give them the chance to experience other school environments, should they wish to, which will assist with their own development.

Governors believe joining with the Creative Learning Partnership Trust is the best way to support our school in continuing to develop and improve, and that working together within the Trust will bring benefits to teaching and learning and that this will positively impact on children's achievement.

We are holding a meeting at James Bateman on the 17th April at 1800 which we would like to invite you to so that you can ask any questions you have about the proposal. The Chief Executive Officer of the Creative Learning Partnership Trust, Lynne Bennett, will be attending the meeting and will answer questions you may have about the MAT.

As Governors we know how important this decision is to you and there is some information in this letter about the MAT and the benefits of joining. There is also a document with some frequently asked questions about MAT's contained within this letter.

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If you would like to respond to the consultation please return the attached form to Cheryl Picken, School Business Manager, or alternatively please visit the School website and follow the link on the homepage which can be found here:-

<http://jamesbateman.staffs.sch.uk>

The consultation opens formally from the 22nd March 2018 and is open for 4 weeks with the closing date being the 20th April 2018. At this stage, no decision has been made about a conversion and this decision will not be made until views submitted as part of this process have been considered by the full governing body. Your feedback is crucial in helping Governors make a decision about the MAT proposal and the name change. Once the feedback has been collected we will share the information with you via the school website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Becci Bryant', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Becci Bryant
Chair of Governors