



27<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Ms Blakemore,

The Interim Executive Board of Buckhurst Hill Community Primary School is about to begin a consultation process with its staff, parents and other community partners on becoming an academy within the Epping Forest Schools Partnership Trust.

I enclose a copy of the letter that has been send to the parents and carers of children who attend the school for your information and to provide the Epping Forest District Council with the opportunity of contributing to this consultation should it wish to do so.

If the council have any comments it would like the IEB to take into consideration please send them to me, in writing, at the school by the end of the consultation period.

Yours sincerely,

M R Capon

Chair Interim Executive Board



27<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Academy Status: - Buckhurst Hill Community Primary School**

The Interim Executive Board (IEB) of Buckhurst Hill Community School is exploring the possibility of becoming an Academy within the Epping Forest Schools Partnership Trust (EFSPT) with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of this and to commence a consultation period with all parents/carers concerning this proposal.

Academies are publicly funded state schools that are independent of the Local Authority and receive funding directly from Central Government. We are writing to consult with staff, parents and other Community Partners, such as Epping Forest District Council, to determine whether the School should proceed with conversion and we would like to invite your views on the matter. Academies benefit from greater freedoms but also have additional responsibilities including statutory duties as an academy trust company. As the EFSPT is already an Academy, the School is confident it can manage these.

At this stage we are not committing the School to conversion to Academy status. We are consulting with everyone associated with our School before the IEB meets again to make a final decision. The consultation will formally begin on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 and finish on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019.

As you know from my previous letters, the IEB has considered a number of possible scenarios for the future of the school including that:-

- The school remains as a stand-alone Community School within the Local Authority
- The school joins with another Local Authority Maintained School in a Federation
- The school seeks to join an existing Multi-Academy Trust

You are also aware that the IEB, together with representatives from Senior Staff, has met with a number of potential partner schools and/or multi-academy trusts.

Our School Values:  
Community – Togetherness – Respect – Success



As a result of this process we believe that joining the Epping Forest Schools Partnership Trust is the most appropriate way forward for the school because:

- It builds on the historic and current partnerships that the school has with a group of other local schools.
- It provides access to a partnership of schools with a long record of providing effective school-to-school support.
- It provides access to experienced colleagues who can support the effective and sustainable leadership to the school.
- It provides access to experienced governance within the context of the Trust.
- It provides opportunities for staff to work with a large number of staff in other schools in order to gain support and to co-construct practice and pedagogy to further improve the learning and personal development of young people.
- It provides a local solution within a partnership that accepts that schools develop and maintain their own ethos, sense of community and unique character.
- It provides a wide range of professional development and career opportunities for staff.

Apart from the need for the Epping Forest Schools Partnership Trust to put in place a new Governing Body and to review the structure of the School's Leadership Team we are not expecting any changes to the provision that the school currently makes for your children.

We would welcome any written comments/observations you might like to raise via this consultation period but would also inform you that a consultation meeting for parents and carers will take place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 6:00 pm at the school. We invite you to attend to learn more about this proposal and to give you an opportunity to make any representations to the IEB concerning this matter. Mr Peter Tidmarsh, CEO Epping Forest Schools Partnership Trust, will also be attending the meeting.

I hope that you are able to attend the consultation meeting or alternatively I should be grateful to receive any written comments from you by 3:30pm on Tuesday 21st May 2019. Written comments and observations should be addressed to the Chair of the IEB via the school or please respond using email [consultation@buckhursthill.essex.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@buckhursthill.essex.sch.uk).

The IEB will meet after this date to consider all comments received and to decide how to proceed.

Yours sincerely,

Chair of Interim Executive Board,  
on behalf of the IEB and Essex Local Authority.



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