



Borden Church of England Primary School

Part of the UNITAS Collaboration

School Lane Borden Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8JS

Dear Parents and Carers

21st April 2017

Unitas Collaboration – Academy Consultation

As you know, at the start of January we consulted all parents and staff on the proposal that our school would convert to academy status within a multi academy trust comprising the 4 schools in the Unitas collaboration. Our consultation period has now come to an end. We are very grateful to all those parents who attended the open meeting and to those who responded to the consultation. The four schools have a total of some 926 pupils and there were 102 responses to the consultation, of which 21 were opposed to the proposal. We are told that this is a good level of response in comparison to experience elsewhere.

At the full governing body meeting held on 28th March 2017 the governors of The Oaks considered:

- A report on consultation on the proposal that the Unitas Collaboration become a multi academy Trust – including the comments specific to our school;
- Specific correspondence which raises concern about the structure of the Trust, particularly about the majority membership for Church appointees in relation to the community schools – including a draft response to that correspondence; and
- An update on progress with the establishment of the Trust

Governors noted in particular that the documents which would be put in place to establish the multi academy trust would safeguard the current status and character of each of the schools.

The Governors resolved to convert to academy status as a member of the Swale Unitas Academy Trust.

At the same time the Department for Education has been considering the proposal and at the end of March the Regional Schools Commissioner agreed to issue an academy order to each school. This allows us to proceed with the legal work required to make the change, and provides grant funding for the costs of that work. We expect that work to be completed at around the end of the Summer term in July. As we said in the consultation document, pupils and parents are unlikely to notice any difference in your day to day experience of the school; with no changes to the name, to the uniform or to the admissions arrangements. That does mean that parents of children at The Oaks will continue to need to apply for a place at Minterne. The Speech and Language provision will continue to be part of both schools and we are on course for the new building to arrive during the Summer holiday.

We will keep parents informed of progress and confirm the date of conversion when we can.

Yours sincerely

Helen Stewart (Chair of Governors)



Mr David Whitehead
Mrs Sheila Dunk

Executive Headteacher
Head of School

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