

28th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Joining a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) - Consultation Letter

We are delighted to inform you that Fairfield High School for Girls has requested to join '**Stamford Park Trust**'.

We believe that this will be a positive move for both the school and the Trust and will offer many benefits to us.

As you are aware our school staff work extremely hard to provide a high-quality education for your children. The Trust Board's priority is to enable our school to continue to provide an excellent education for our pupils, whilst protecting our school's ethos and identity and retaining its individual qualities and strengths.

Because we are a highly successful school we were initially approached by a number of Multi Academy Trusts inviting us to consider joining their Trust; one of which was **Stamford Park Trust**.

After meeting with the **Chief Executive Officer (Mr. Anton McGrath)** several times to hear first-hand from him about the benefits for Fairfield High School for Girls in joining their Trust; our Trust Board agreed to pursue this option as it felt right for everyone.

Stamford Park Trust is first and foremost '**Tameside**' based and it currently has four establishments within its Trust:

- **Ashton Sixth Form College**
- **Longdendale High School**
- **Rayner Stephens High School**
- **Astley Sports Village**

Working together in partnership with them will offer many benefits for our pupils and the wider community.

We are hoping that this conversion will commence from **1st September 2024**.

We know you will have many questions to ask about the benefits of this collaboration and the process of joining the Trust.

With this in mind, arrangements have been made for an '**Open**' **Parent/Carer Multi Academy Trust** meeting to take place on **Tuesday 5th December 2023 in the school hall from 5.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.**

Speaking at this meeting will be:

- **Mr. Anton McGrath – Chief Executive Officer of Stamford Park Trust**
- **Mrs. Bev Worthington - Chair of the Trust Board**
- **Mrs. Stephanie Bateman – Headteacher**

You will have the opportunity to hear first-hand on why the Trust Board made the decision to explore the option of joining a Trust and hear about Stamford Park Trust and their set up. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentations.

Our school hall has a limit on numbers (**200 maximum**) so we would appreciate you emailing our **Governance Professional/Company Secretary (Mrs. Julie Murphy)** on jmurphy@fairfieldhighschool.co.uk to confirm whether you wish to attend the meeting and if so, how many of you from each family will be present.

If we do receive above the capacity allowance then we will arrange for a second meeting to take place on the same evening from **6.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.**

If, after having heard what has been said, you wish to have a private discussion with Mr. McGrath then this can be arranged – he is holding two **Parent/Carer Listening Clinics** on:

- **Thursday 7th December 2023 from 5.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.**
- **Monday 11th December 2023 from 5.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.**

These will be for a maximum of **10 minutes** per session.

Parents and carers are more than welcome to submit any questions directly to Mrs. Murphy at her email address mentioned above; she will ensure that these are shared with Mr. McGrath and that you receive a response.

In line with statutory requirements, we will be formally consulting on our proposal to join the Stamford Park Trust from **Wednesday 10th January to Wednesday 21st February 2024**; the consultation will run for **six weeks**. The consultation will be open to everyone; including parents/carers, pupils, staff, stakeholders and the wider community.

The strength of our school and that of our prospective partners means we are confident that we have the vision, skills and resources to serve the best interests of our community and to shape our own future destiny.

It is important that Fairfield High School for Girls has been (and will always remain) at the heart of its community and this connection aligns us with Stamford Park Trust, which is equally embedded in the borough and community of Tameside.

Your sincerely

Bev Worthington

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Chair of the Trust Board