



The Castle Partnership Trust

ACHIEVE | BELONG | PARTICIPATE

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30 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to advise you of some discussions regarding our Trust and its future.

Our schools have had a long and productive relationship with the schools in the Uffculme Academy Trust (UAT) and we want to explore strengthening these links. By working together more closely we think we can improve things for all of our children. For example, we will have more teachers who can work together to ensure we have the very best methods and resources for pupils, and to increase the opportunity to provide well for our most vulnerable children. In addition to this, we can use our finances more efficiently through making joint purchases and buying in bulk to bring down costs. Therefore the Trust's Board of Directors is looking at whether a future merger of the two trusts will bring advantages to all pupils, staff and our communities.

There is a strong synergy between both Trusts including:

- Common values, culture and ethos as a 'family of schools' working together for mutual benefit
- Commitment to an inclusive, all-through organisation, based on a powerful understanding of the whole educational journey, age 2–19
- An understanding of excellence and how to add value to children's educational experiences
- Strong commitment to working with the communities our schools serve, with each school retaining an identity that is reflective of its community
- Strong commitment to being an excellent employer, an 'employer of choice', committed to reducing unnecessary workload and investing in staff well-being, investing in training and providing opportunities for growth and career development.

This is potentially an exciting opportunity for us to work with a like-minded trust and with other schools that share our values and vision for our communities. We have discussed this with the Heads of our schools, as well as the Chairs of Local Governing Bodies and they are very supportive of the Trust taking the next steps.

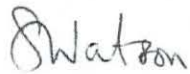
There is much to consider before we reach the next stage and so both Boards have agreed to undertake a process of due diligence which will allow both trusts to understand fully what the advantages will be and if there are any risks.

The Board wants to conduct a consultation with you, with staff and other stakeholders and we are keen to understand your views. The consultation document is attached with this letter and gives more details about what we think some of the benefits will be and why we think UAT is a good match for us to partner with. We have set up a mailbox for you to get in touch with us and let us know your thoughts about the proposal and to ask any questions or raise points that you would

like the Board to consider before making a final decision. The email address for the mailbox is:
consultation@castle.somerset.sch.uk

At this point, we are only exploring the pros and cons of a merger with Uffculme Academy Trust and I want to stress that no final decision has been made. This will only be taken once we have the outcomes of the consultation and the other due diligence exercises.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs Watson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W'.

Mrs Watson
CEO The Castle Partnership Trust