



BENTON PARK SCHOOL

'Creating a climate for great learning, success and opportunity'

Thursday, May 1, 2025

REF: Formal Stakeholder Consultation

Dear Parents/Carers and Stakeholders,

We are writing to you regarding the opportunity for us to join Moorlands Learning Trust (MLT). As many of you will already be aware, we have developed a strong partnership with MLT across a range of areas over the last eighteen months. This has supported the development of the school, and the Department for Education have now granted an academy order. This means Benton Park School can formally join MLT and become part of the Trust's partnership of schools and so expand the number of areas where we can work collaboratively.

Moorlands Learning Trust is a multi-academy trust set up originally by Ilkley Grammar School and is at an exciting time in their own expansion and development as they now include three secondary schools and four primaries in West Yorkshire and North Yorkshire. By joining the trust at this stage, we will be joining with other effective schools, to create a wider partnership that will help us to improve our school further and enhance the outcomes and experiences of all members of our school community. We would expect to achieve this through the sharing of best practice and high-quality staff development; increased flexibility of staffing and shared expertise; financial benefits through centralised costs and a greater range of career progression opportunities to develop and retain staff.

We believe joining this local trust - one which respects our school's individual identity and ethos - will be mutually beneficial and will allow us to continue to uphold the highest possible standards for all of our students.

Whilst becoming part of MLT will mean that the formal, legal status of our school will change, we confirm that our school will retain its unique character and identity, including our name and school uniform, with our Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team overseeing the operational running of the school, as we do now.

Before proceeding with the academisation, we are inviting you to share your views and ask any questions that you may have, as part of this formal consultation. Please click on [this link](#) to submit any questions or comments.

The consultation period will begin on Friday 2nd May and end on Friday 23rd May at which point, the Governing Body will consider all responses received as part of their final decision on academisation.

Executive Headteacher: Miss D Martin | Headteacher: Mr N Skilton

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Any comments and questions can also be submitted via secretary@bentonpark.net or by post to the school marked 'Academy Consultation'.

We have already held informal consultation meetings with parents and staff at the school, but should there be sufficient further demand, as part of this formal consultation, then we will seek to arrange a stakeholder meeting with representatives from the school and trust.

We believe this is an exciting opportunity to shape our future and bring about further positive change. We welcome your views on this formal consultation.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas Skilton (Headteacher)

Vic Clarke (Chair of Governors)

Executive Headteacher: Miss D Martin | Headteacher: Mr N Skilton

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