



Ref: H/KDA/CHU/Academies/ParentLetter

5th July 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

The school governors of Newchurch Primary School and Culcheth High School (working alongside the Headteachers, Mrs Lawrenson and Mr Hunt) have worked collaboratively to consider formalising the excellent links between the two schools to further enhance the educational experiences and opportunities for the children and young people in our community. The proposal under consideration will promote innovative opportunities for our children and young people, providing an excellent continuum of learning from age 4-16 years.

Culcheth High School and Newchurch Primary School will be consulting with the local community, early in the autumn term, on the proposal that both schools jointly convert to academy status.

Academy status is becoming more common both nationally and in Warrington as the Government continues to encourage schools to convert to academies and work together to form or join Multi Academy Trusts.

We are proposing to join the Leading Learners Multi-Academy Trust, which is based at Tyldesley Primary School. Tyldesley is an outstanding primary school and a National Teaching School, which will provide further developmental opportunities for both Culcheth High School and Newchurch Primary School.

Leading Learners Multi-Academy Trust will also support Culcheth High School in its ambition to become a National Teaching School, which we hope to achieve in the next two years after Culcheth High School was awarded a 'Building Capacity for the Future Grant' by the National College for Teaching and Leadership. The Trust will also further support Newchurch Primary School in its newly designated role as a National Support School.

We believe that becoming strategic partners of the Leading Learners Multi-Academy Trust will enable both schools to continue and accelerate the progress we have made. We will continue to work together on the innovative projects recognised in the recent Culcheth High School OFSTED report as 'exciting', but do so together moving forward.

Leading Learners Multi-Academy Trust is an open trust, which enables other schools to join us, sharing expertise and ensuring the best possible outcomes for children and young people in our care from our local community.

If after a full consultation process and associated due diligence, the governing bodies make the decision to become part of Leading Learners Academy Trust there will be very little impact on the daily business of the school. The names of the schools will stay the same; the uniform will not change; and the schools will continue to go about providing the excellent opportunities for our children and young people.

A full consultation process will be launched in the early autumn term outlining the conversion process, the full benefits of this proposal and how it will allow Culcheth High School and Newchurch Primary School to continue to flourish as lead partners in a successful and forward thinking multi-academy trust. We will continue to inform you of developments in an open and honest manner throughout the consultation period and beyond.

Yours faithfully

C P Hunt (Mr)
Headteacher

M Patel (Mr)
Chair of Governors