



6th December 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

We wrote to you in July to inform you that Culcheth High School was proposing (along with Newchurch Primary School) to join the Leading Learners Multi-Academy Trust, which is based at Tyldesley Primary School.

Becoming part of a Multi-Academy Trust would have formalised close working relationships between the schools at a time when academy status was becoming more common both nationally and in Warrington as the Government continued to encourage schools to convert to academies and work together to form or join Multi Academy Trusts.

Since making this resolution there have been a number of local and national developments regarding academy status and the roles of Multi-Academy Trusts. The National Schools Commissioner, Sir David Carter, and the Regional Schools Commissioners have recently discussed the view that the focus for the wider school system should shift away from 'structure' of schools and focus instead on school improvement. The links below provide further information about this.

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/academy-trusts-not-the-only-answer-to-inter-school-collaboration-rsc-admits/>

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/cautious-schools-can-join-academy-trusts-as-associate-members/>

In light of these developments and change in focus, Governors at Culcheth High School have decided that joining a Multi-Academy Trust is not a school priority, at the moment. The Governing Body, Mr Hunt and the school's Senior Leadership Team will continually assess the local and national developments moving forward regarding future academy conversion and will always ensure that the local community is kept well-informed.

Culcheth High School will continue to work collaboratively, further developing the excellent links with Newchurch Primary School to enhance the educational experiences and opportunities for the children and young people in our community. Together we will build on the 'exciting' work identified in our OFSTED report (May 2017) to promote innovative opportunities for our children and young people, providing an excellent continuum of learning from age 4-16 years.

Culcheth High School will also continue to be supported by the Leading Learners Multi-Academy Trust 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.

We will continue to inform you of developments in an open and honest manner as and when they happen.

Yours faithfully

C P Hunt (Mr)
Headteacher

M Patel (Mr)
Chair of Governors