



10 October 2014

Dear Parents/Carers

Update on continued development of Cheney School Academy Trust and partnership working

Those of you who have been parent/carers of students at Cheney School for a few years will know that in January 2013 Cheney School became an Academy managed by Cheney School Academy Trust. At that time the Department for Education insisted we become a 'standalone' converter academy, although our preference had been to establish a Multi-Academy Trust so that any other local school wishing to become an academy could be included in our Trust. In 2014 we were invited by the Department for Education to apply to change the legal status of the Academy Trust from a Standalone Converter Academy Trust to that of a Multi-Academy Trust, and this conversion was completed on October 1st.

As a Multi-Academy Trust we are able to sponsor other schools, in the same way that The Cherwell School – which is also a Multi-Academy Trust – sponsors Cutteslowe Primary School. Over a year ago we were approached by the Governing Body and head-teacher of Bayards Hill Primary School to discuss the possibility of sponsoring their school, which was under threat of being forced to convert to an academy. On 1 October 2014 Bayards Hill Primary School became an academy, sponsored by Cheney School and, along with Cheney School, became part of the Cheney School Academy Trust. Whilst we have a close working relationship with Bayards Hill, Cheney is committed to continuing to work with **all** of our feeder primary schools and with local secondary schools, Academies and Further Education/Higher Education providers in the City.

Becoming a Multi-Academy Trust has required some changes to governance arrangements. The Cheney School Academy Trust is responsible for two schools and so has been established as a separate board – details of the Trustees (the directors of the company) are available on the website at <http://www.cheney.oxon.sch.uk/Governors>. The Trust has delegated powers for setting the strategic direction of the school and for holding the head-teacher to account to Cheney School Local Governing Body. This is a similar structure to when the school was a local authority maintained school. Details of the current members of the Governing Body of Cheney School are available on the website at <http://www.cheney.oxon.sch.uk/Governors>.

As part of these changes, several of the previous governors of Cheney School have either become governors at Bayards Hill or have stood down for personal reasons. We are therefore looking to appoint three new governors to the Cheney School Local Governing Body – two parent/carers and one from the wider community. Further details will be provided soon.

Yours faithfully

Bridget Durning

Jolie Kirby

