



Nailsea School

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1st June 2020

Dear Parents/carers

I hope that you are all well and are coping with the strange situation in which we find ourselves.

As a governor that lives locally I have been immensely proud of how Nailsea School has been recognised by many in our community for the way they have responded to this crisis. Many have spoken to me about the excellent communication, support and help that has been provided during lockdown. Parents have reported how pleased they have been with all the staff are doing to support students and their families. I am certain that this level of care and support will continue in this next phase of proposed wider opening and I know that you will be fully informed at each stage.

Before this current situation you may have been aware that there continues to be changes in the educational landscape, creating new challenges for all schools. One of these is the idea of schools being part of Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) to continue to improve outcomes and meet the wider challenges ahead. Governors at Nailsea are anxious to ensure that we are best placed to provide an excellent education for our students whilst protecting the school's ethos and our position at the heart of the community.

Following a thorough due diligence process the governors met, just before lockdown, and voted unanimously to join the Wessex Learning Trust. The Trust was established in 2016 and consists of thirteen academies, predominantly based in Somerset. This offers Nailsea the opportunity to join a group of schools committed to, and having a proven track record of school improvement where leaders will work together to share best practice and learn from another as well as from other external networks and partnerships. Details on the Trust can be found here: <https://wessexlearningtrust.co.uk/>

Importantly for us the Wessex Learning Trust values the diversity and ethos of each school. Our joining this MAT will give us the degree of autonomy we have requested and would not require us to make any changes to the school that would be noted by students or parents – such as admissions criteria, identity or uniform, for example. It was important for us that we were part of a MAT which focuses on school improvement, puts the needs of students and families at its heart and where we would have a direct impact on its future development as equal partners.

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As the governing body have agreed this decision, the proposal will now be considered by the Regional School Commissioner and the Education Funding Agency. This decision is due to be taken in mid June.

In the meantime the governors would welcome any views, comments or questions you may have. Please forward these to Tash Devaney, Clerk to Governors at TDevaney@nailseaschool.com

Best wishes

Jo Hopkinson
Chair of Governors

Kevin Royce
Chair of MAT Working Group