



Parent Update - Wednesday 18th May 2016

Welcome to the Discovery Multi Academy Trust Parent Update. We will be releasing a series of updates for parents and carers over the course of the consultation period, to keep everyone up to date on what is happening during the development of the MAT. We will use this update to answer any questions or enquiries we have received. Representatives from the Interim Board will be meeting with designers this week to finalise the Discovery MAT logo. For any queries about the Discovery Multi Academy Trust, please submit them to:

discoverymultiacademytrust@gmail.com

We are able to confirm that the Discovery MAT will be going by **Plymouth City Council's 2016/17 term dates**, which can be found on their website. The proposed **non-pupil days** for the next academic year are as follows:

Monday 5th September 2016

Tuesday 6th September 2016

Tuesday 3rd January 2017

Tuesday 25th July 2017

Wednesday 26th July 2017

CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL—WEDNESDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2016

School Uniform and School Logos

All three schools are hoping to have uniform with the new school logo available from **1st June 2016** from our usual suppliers. The uniform itself for all three schools will remain the same. The Discovery MAT logo will not appear on any of the uniform. The school names on the logos will change to the following:

Oakwood Primary Academy

Weston Mill Community Primary Academy

Beechwood Primary Academy

Each of the schools are happy for children to wear old uniform for as long as this is convenient for parents and carers.

Responses Questions from Parents and Carers

Will the schools be changing their names?

It is important to all of the schools to ensure that their individual identity remains. However, our legal position means that we will become 'academies' and therefore the word 'Academy' should be used in our school name. So, whilst we will be keeping the names of Oakwood, Beechwood and Weston Mill, the use of 'Academy' with that is required.

Are Oakwood, Beechwood and Weston Mill Primary Schools merging?

From 1st September, we are hoping to form a Multi Academy Trust where each of the three schools will be separate academies, each with their own distinct leadership and Local Advisory Board, who will provide support to the schools, similar to our existing governing bodies. **(continued overleaf)**

The overarching plan for the MAT will be to develop the schools in partnership, improving outcomes for children and developing staff professionally.

What happens if there is a change in government? Can this decision be reversed?

Our decision to become an Academy and a MAT has been based around our desire to work together in partnership, celebrating the individuality of our schools, but allowing us to share expertise and experience in order to improve the education for our children. This desire will not change following a change in government, and we feel that this is something to be built upon in the future.

Will the three schools share teaching and support staff?

Beechwood and Oakwood are currently part of a Federation, which means that they share staff across their two sites. This contractual arrangement will remain in place in the new MAT. Weston Mill staff will continue to be based at Weston Mill. New staff joining after the 1st September will be employed by the MAT and may over time work across the three schools.

To what extent will the three schools have to follow the same policies and procedures? For example, will all three schools set the same price rate for Breakfast Club?

Statutory policies and procedures will be followed in the same way as they are currently. Day-to-day running of the schools will remain as they currently are and there is no reason to change any pre-existing arrangements.

Will Weston Mill still incorporate the Forest Schools Programme?

Weston Mill, as well as Oakwood and Beechwood, will still have autonomy for teaching and learning. The Forest Schools Programme is a valuable part of the schools' educational programme and whilst it remains so, will continue to be part of the curriculum.

How much can we expect the Trust Members representing Oakwood and Beechwood to fully understand the needs of parents and the community at Weston Mill, and vice versa?

The Board Members are determined by the range of skills and experiences that they bring to our new multi academy trust (MAT). They develop the strategic direction of the Trust and provide support to the schools to ensure that there is ongoing improvement. In partnership with each of the schools, a Local Advisory Board will be in place to work more closely with Heads of School in order to ensure that the needs of the parents and communities, as well as children, are met.

Will parent governors be considered in becoming Directors of the Academy?

There are currently two former parent governors who will be sitting on the Board: Hannah Randall from the Federation and Jade Harris from Weston Mill. A "Who's Who" is included with this newsletter.

How are the Directors chosen? How is their term of office determined?

As the MAT is a company, the Directors' appointment, term of office and responsibilities are determined by the Articles of Association. The format of these is determined when the company is formed, and there is, of course, a process to ensure that Directors fulfil their responsibilities and understand their legal responsibilities to the MAT and the schools. These posts are unpaid and it is felt that it will be important to continue to have a range of skills, including parent representation, as the MAT moves forward.

Will the Directors be electable by parents?

Parents will be able to elect representatives to their Local Advisory Boards, which form a similar role to our current governing bodies, and which will be in place for each school. The Chairs of these Local Advisory Boards will also sit on the Board of Trustees. It is our intention to ensure that our relationship with parents, and the value we place on them as partners in educating their children, is enhanced in our new organisation.

Reminder: Parent Consultation Meetings

If you would like to ask any questions in person, or would just like to find out more about the Discovery Multi Academy Trust, there are upcoming Parent Consultation Meetings for all three schools. These are as follows:

Oakwood Primary School Parent Consultation Meeting

Monday 6th June 2016 at 2pm OR 6pm

Weston Mill Community Primary School Parent Consultation Meeting

Wednesday 8th June at 11.30am OR 3pm

Beechwood Primary School Parent Consultation Meeting

Thursday 9th June at 9am OR 3.30pm

Please inform the school office if you wish to attend.

Who's Who in the Discovery MAT



Tina Tuohy
Member



Al Briggs
Member



Roger Galloway
Member

Board of Trustees



Steve Evans
Plymouth
City Council



Jade Harris
Parent Governor



Hannah Randall
Parent Governor



Alison Nettleship
CEO Designate



David Tytherleigh
Chairman of
the Board



Carol Lant
Community
Governor



Dawn Jones
City College Plymouth



Jackie Sparrow
Head of School
Oakwood Primary Academy
Local Advisory Board



Rachel Dibben
Head of School
Weston Mill Primary Academy
Local Advisory Board



Lisa Evans
Head of School
Beechwood Primary Academy
Local Advisory Board