



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
LANCASTRIAN INFANT SCHOOL
ORCHARD GARDENS, CHICHESTER, WEST SUSSEX PO19 1DG
Telephone: 01243 782818 Fax: 01243 530645
e-mail: office@lancastrian.w-sussex.sch.uk



Headteacher: Mrs Zoe Gordon BA (Hons), MA(ED), NPQH

20th April 2020

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your families are well and safe in these difficult times. We miss all of the children and are looking forward to a time when we are all together again.

Before the abrupt end to our term, the Governors had taken some necessary steps to considering the future of Lancastrian and how we would be able to preserve the school in the light of West Sussex's School Effectiveness Strategy. This letter is to keep you informed about some of the possible changes. We want you to hear directly from us about the school's position. Our proposals will be the subject of a full consultation with all parents, future parents and staff – once we are in a position to arrange an open meeting and when we have returned to school after the current closure. No firm decisions will be taken until we have been able to discuss the way forward with you and the Governors have had the chance to consider your feedback.

You may be aware of consultations carried out by WSCC on the possible closure of some schools in and around Chichester. They are continuing with their proposals and we have considered the best way to ensure that Lancastrian can continue to provide the rich, nurturing and fulfilling education that it has done over many years.

Governors have decided to explore conversion to academy status by joining the Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust (DCAT) and entering into a closer partnership with Central Church of England Academy, our neighbour and where many of our children move on to. We already have a good relationship with colleagues at Central and The March CE Primary School, which is also part of DCAT. We want to develop and grow this, so that together, and with the support of DCAT, we can continue to improve the opportunities we provide for your children.

If we move forward with this, we see real benefit in a closer relationship with Central CE Academy. This could mean that it would be beneficial to seek a shared name for both schools, with one being the Infant site and one being the Junior site. All of this will be the subject of consultation.

In order to remain completely open with you, if we proceed with the conversion we want to tell you now that after a year with DCAT, in the academic year 2021-22, we intend to consult on becoming a Church of England school whilst maintaining the strengths of Lancastrian including our passion for serving our community and having a very open admissions policy. You will have a full opportunity to engage in that consultation at that time.

We hope you will understand why it is important for us to share this information with you now. We have informed WSCC of the Governors' decision as it finalises decisions on the other proposals. We have asked that they make clear that this is a proposal



that we are exploring and that no firm decisions have been taken. We have also shared this with staff and our colleagues at Central are sharing it with their parents.

If anyone has any immediate questions about this proposal please email the school on head@lancastrian.org.uk but otherwise we look forward to discussing it with you once we are up and running again.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Zoe Gordon, Headteacher

Mr David Brixey, Chair of Governors