

St Barnabas CE VC Primary School  
Albany Road  
Bristol BS6 5LQ  
**0117 3772391**  
**[stbarnasp@bristol-schools.uk](mailto:stbarnasp@bristol-schools.uk)**  
**[www.st-barnabasprimary.co.uk](http://www.st-barnabasprimary.co.uk)**  
**Headteachers:** Jon Barr & Debbie Fisher



18.12.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

Over the last few months, the Governing Body has been exploring the possibility of joining a multi academy trust. The school has experienced a fall in pupil numbers and there is limited funding available from the local authority. Through joining a multi academy trust, the future sustainability of St Barnabas is secured. The Governing Body has identified the Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust (DBAT) as being a body that could offer the support and security the school needs. There are many other successful schools who are part of DBAT, including some within the local Bristol area. Being a Church School, DBAT's vision is rooted within a strong Christian ethos, which mirrors that of our school. Mr Barr has been working for DBAT part time in 2020-2021.

We are writing to inform you that following the agreement of the Governing Body, St Barnabas is now actively pursuing conversion to academy status. Reaching this decision has been a long and sometimes difficult process. We as Governors have given the situation careful thought and consideration, sharing our fears, concerns and hopes for the future sustainability of St Barnabas. Our strategic aim was and is central: to provide the best long-term interests of our current and future pupils within the community we serve.

We believe the decision we have made will not only secure the future of our school but allow it to perform even better. The shared values, ethos and aims within this Trust offers immense benefits. The majority of schools in Bristol are already academies and we believe there are many benefits in becoming one.

We will now start the consultation process with our stakeholders and we invite you to share your views with us. **We are preparing a document that outlines some frequently asked questions and will distribute it in early January 2021.**

Information about the Diocese of Bristol Academies Trusts (DBAT) can be found at [www.dbat.org.uk](http://www.dbat.org.uk) and further useful government information about academies can be found at [www.education.gov.uk/academies](http://www.education.gov.uk/academies)

An academy is a state school funded directly by the Department for Education (DfE), rather than the Local Authority. Academies are run by a Board of Trustees and the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) delegates authority to the Local Governing Board of all schools within the multi academy trust. Our academy proposal will see us work in conjunction with DBAT and the other schools with a shared aim to achieve Quality of Education for all of our children.

The Governors at St Barnabas CE VC Primary are committed to ensuring that our school continues to focus on meeting children's needs first, placing them at the heart of all decision-making and



ensuring we provide the highest standards of teaching and learning. The conversion process will enable us to better utilise precious resources, set up better support systems for pupils and staff and provide a sustainable future for the pupils and those children yet to come.

We are very keen for you to share your views with us, which you can do by emailing **[governorstbarnabasp@bristol-schools.uk](mailto:governorstbarnabasp@bristol-schools.uk)**

**We have arranged two meetings for parents (via Zoom video conferencing) on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021: one will be at 9.30am and the other at 5pm.** These will provide further information on the conversion process. You are all very welcome to attend one of these meetings. **The Zoom details of the meetings can be found below.** Please contact the Office if you would like the Zoom link details emailed directly to you.

After the informal consultation period Governors will take time to consider all feedback. We will then write again to keep you fully informed of all developments.

We realise that the school has undergone significant change over the last three years. We strongly believe that having secured good leadership and management in our school this is the right move for St Barnabas in order to secure the future of our school.

Many thanks for your continued support

Yours Sincerely

Kate Matheson

Jon Barr and Debbie Fisher

Chair of Governors

Headteachers

### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 9.30am meeting on Zoom. All families welcome**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89692951073?pwd=WHZ0alNPRktFVUtEaXRPTjJqSWhzQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 9295 1073

Passcode: 1HXq8U

### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 5.00pm meeting on Zoom. All families welcome**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89325137010?pwd=U1d1a1pkU3BSQUp5OWgxUm1LMll1QT09>

Meeting ID: 893 2513 7010

Passcode: 3LTGUX