

10.01.25

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all, I hope you have enjoyed the Christmas break and are ready for 2025!

I wanted to write to update you on our federation proposal to join the Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust (DCAT).

Mark Talbot from DCAT, who many of you met at the consultation parent meetings, informed me that whilst DCAT were interested in both our schools, their current response is a 'not yet' for us to join DCAT. We will keep a relationship with them and know that their door is open for advice.

DCAT have visited both schools to scrutinise all areas of curriculum, teaching and learning, finance, personnel, health and safety and leadership. There was mutual respect between both parties and they had a lot of positive things to say about our schools.

There have been fundamental changes in the education landscape from the new government, one of these has been the removal of all schools having to join a multi academy trust by 2030. The conversion grant of £25 000 for schools to move into academies has also ceased as of 1st January 2025. This funding for the process of conversion now has to be met between the school and academy themselves.

The governor sustainability committee has already met and welcomes your response. We will continue to investigate different options to strengthen the future of our federation.

Many thanks for your support,

Kind regards

Rachel West

Executive Headteacher