



5th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update you on the academisation process for The De Montfort School (TDMS) and am delighted to inform you that we are planning for the school to join The Four Stones Multi Academy Trust (MAT) on 1st January 2021. Our MAT was formed in November 2018 and currently consists of Haybridge High School (in Hagley) and King Charles I School (in Kidderminster). Further information can be found on our website at <http://www.thefourstonesmat.co.uk/>

There is clearly much to celebrate at TDMS and we are looking forward to working with the senior leadership team and the staff to further improve the attainment and achievement of all the students from Years 6 to 13. Mr Nichols has already told me about his intention to retire on 31st December and so we are currently advertising internally for an associate headteacher to lead the school from 1st January 2021 until 31st August 2021. The associate headteacher will be supported by members of our executive and central teams during the spring and summer terms. Later in the academic year, we will be advertising for a permanent appointment from 1st September 2021.

I understand that you, as parents/carers, will have many questions about how this will affect your son(s)/daughter(s). I have attached some FAQs and will continue to keep you informed as the academisation process is carried out. We envisage this process to be a smooth one and look forward to working with everyone at TDMS.

Regards

Stephen Brownlow
Chief Executive Officer

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is an academy?

An academy is essentially a school which is funded directly by the Department for Education. It is independent of the local authority. TDMS will receive its funding direct from the Department for Education via the central team of the Multi Academy Trust.

What is a Multi Academy Trust (MAT)?

A MAT is where one academy trust is responsible for running two or more other academies outside of local authority control. A MAT is a single legal entity with one set of trustees under which schools operate collaboratively, but with considerable freedom to maintain their own character and ethos. All schools within the MAT share a common vision and work together to improve the educational experience and outcomes for all their students.

How much will it cost the school to convert into an academy?

A grant has been made available from the Department for Education which will cover all the costs of converting TDMS into an academy within The Four Stones Multi Academy Trust.

What is the governance structure of the MAT?

At individual school level, there is a Local Governing Body (LGB) which has responsibility for matters affecting its own school. The LGB at TDMS will probably consist of 5 Trust Board appointed Governors, 2 parent governors and 2 staff governors.

Above the LGB there is a board of Trustees (Trust Board). These people oversee the strategic development of the MAT and issues affecting all schools. It is important to note that the board of Trustees are not representatives or delegates of individual schools. Their function is to work at an overarching strategic level.

The final accountability lies with the Members of the MAT. They are a small group of people with extensive experience, appropriate skills and commitment who have the power to appoint Trustees and amend the articles of association.

None of the Governors, Trustees or Members are paid.

What will be the name of the academy?

The De Montfort School

Would the school lose its individuality?

No. All schools in our MAT will maintain their individual ethos and distinctive features.

Would the school lose its place in the local community?

No, we are determined that this would not be the case. We are committed to continuing to work in partnership with the local community, schools and post 16 partners.

Are you going to change the length and timings of the school day?

No.

Will the school's term dates change?

No. There are no plans at present to change term dates. However, schools within the MAT will look to support each other by having one or two shared teacher training days every year in the future for training and development purposes.

Would there be any change to the school's uniform?

No.

Would there be any change to the admission policies?

No

Would the transport arrangements to and from school be affected by the academisation process?

No

How will my son's/daughter's education be affected by the TDMS becoming an academy?

Students will experience no difference in their day to day learning and the school will maintain its focus on raising attainment and achievement.

My child has special educational needs. How will I know s/he will get the same support when TDMS becomes an academy?

All schools in the MAT are still bound by statutory codes for Special Educational Needs and so all students with special educational needs will be supported to achieve their potential.