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Headteacher: Mr F Westmorland  
Chair of Governors: Mrs A Ellerby

11-12-2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Although disappointed by the final grading from our most recent Ofsted, the notion of considering becoming part of a Multi-Academy Trust has been in our discussions and a realistic part of our strategy since I started at Mundella Primary School.

The government continues to drive the academisation agenda; even though it has become an understandably a less notable priority for them, however, many schools would normally be forced to become part of a Trust should they find themselves in a sustained and vulnerable position (Ofsted, SATs etc).

Mundella, because of it's size and location, is likely to always remain balancing on a fragile edge between short term success and immediate challenge. In order to gain the experience and additional support; that is not always available (or suitable) from the Local Authority, being part of a Trust can bring considerable strength, provision, financial sustenance and capacity for growth; a level of support that does not reliably come from options such as collaboration amongst or federation with other schools.

Whilst we are in a position of relative strength we have, therefore, chosen to move, and act decisively, in order to clearly signal our intentions to be a trusted, respected and valued partner, within a Multi Academy Trust, a school to work with, not work upon.

The selection process; made up of a series of meetings with CEOs (using a working party, made up of volunteers from the governing body), questions, answers and deliberations, formed the basis for the next part of our journey, a recommendation to work with a preferred partner and potentially joining their Trust.

The working party met, for the last time, on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November to share their feelings and observations and conclude their recommendations for a preferred partner. Each governor, in turn and uninterrupted, shared their thoughts about the MATs, CEOs and the process, making observations about the pros and cons.

After some discussion, the panel unanimously selected [Veritas](#) with whom to move forward as a preferred partner. They are a small Trust that has schools, similar to ours, in both Deal and Canterbury.

With pupils at the centre of their decision making; as well as many other reasons, they are a trust that shares a philosophy for exciting, engaging and inclusive education within a network of support, strength and proven success.

We now move into a period of consultation during which stakeholders; pupils, parents, staff, the Local Authority, Unions and the greater community, will be given the opportunity to ask





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questions, provide challenge and be part of building the next chapter for Mundella Primary School.

In order to give you a chance to become involved we will:

- set aside part of our website; mainly for information and easy access to dates etc.
  - o [www.mundella.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Multi+Academy+Trust&pid=78](http://www.mundella.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Multi+Academy+Trust&pid=78)  
(accessed via the parents Tab)
- organise a number of meetings; some for individual groups and some as a general meeting
  - o Teachers
  - o All School Staff
  - o Parents
  - o Pupils (assemblies/class discussion)
  - o Wider Community
- set up a dedicated email address through which you can communicate specifically about the consultation.
  - o [consultation@mundella.kent.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@mundella.kent.sch.uk)

Due to the current circumstances many or all of these meeting will have to be held via Zoom.

Please take the time to contribute to this process and join us in securing a stronger future for Mundella Primary School and the community and children that it serves.

Yours faithfully,

Mr F E Westmorland  
Headteacher

