



20<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

### PROPOSED CONVERSION TO ACADEMY STATUS WITHIN THE DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER ACADEMY TRUST

I wrote to you on 5<sup>th</sup> June setting out the governors' proposal that the school could convert to academy status within the Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust. That letter included some information about the Trust and about academy status and invited parents to a meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm in the school hall. A copy of the letter will be available on a page of the school website that is being set up specifically to share information with you.

The Governors are very grateful to all the parents, grandparents and friends who attended the meeting yesterday. Mark Talbot (DCAT CEO) shared a presentation with us and this will be available on the school website page. He outlined the way the Trust works with and supports schools, its impact in its existing academies and the support that St John's Meads could benefit from if we join. Questions raised at the meeting and from the online survey will be added to a 'frequently asked questions' document which will then be added to the website early next week.

DCAT is a church Trust for church schools and the presentation shows how strongly their vision and values align with those of our school; we share their determination to develop the whole child, "Helping every child reach their God-given potential." Every school needs support to do that and **in the current financial climate for Local Authorities we are unable to secure the support we need.** Our staff are looking forward to opportunities to share practice with other schools in DCAT and to work with colleagues from the Trust so that we can continue to improve the quality of provision for every child.

Governors are aware that information from the internet can raise questions about academy status and changes that can be made when schools convert. We do want to ensure that information shared with you is accurate and communication is effective. Therefore, there will be a further opportunity, next week, for parents and carers to meet DCAT leaders in order to ask questions and raise any concerns that you have. You are warmly invited to join us for coffee in the school hall, (after you drop off your children) on Thursday morning, 27<sup>th</sup> June from 8.40am - 10.00am. **Please could you let Mrs Newton-Brown know if you're planning to attend.** Thank you.

We also encourage all you to use the on-line survey to ask questions and tell us what you think about the proposed conversion, by 5<sup>th</sup> July please. You can find the survey at [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SJMDCAT](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SJMDCAT). This will greatly assist us in our decision making.

Governors and staff at St John's Meads are determined to secure the best possible future for our school and to enable the whole school community to grow and develop.

With kind regards

Linda Caroe,  
Chair of Governors

