

17th May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Monday evening, the Governing Board at Brookside Academy, after a long period of due diligence, decided to enter the formal process of becoming part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) with Bridgwater and Taunton College Trust (BTCT).

A MAT is a legal entity that governs a group of schools through a single set of directors. It is set up and run by schools that share a common ethos and vision. Currently Brookside Academy is a Single Academy Trust (SAT), this means that we work alone rather than working in a more formal MAT collaboration of schools. We are a good school, but we are unable to access the advantages that many MATs now have, such as training, resources and sharing best practice.

BTCT is a group of 8 schools based in Somerset. They have heavily invested in staff training, wellbeing and development, quality additional services to support children and families, specialist approaches to education which fits with our own Specialist Provision and most importantly, that their vision that 'every child achieves' is realised.

The Governing Board's priority is to enable Brookside to continue to provide an excellent education for our children, whilst protecting our school's unique ethos and identity, and retaining its individual qualities and strengths. It was clear from BTCT that they work from the point of best knowledge, and they want their schools to keep their unique identities, characteristics, and freedoms. We believe by working together with BTCT we can achieve wonderful things and provide a first-class, educational experience in which all our children can excel. We want to continue to grow as a great school, with great teachers in this amazing community. To retain our school's identity and its capacity to sustain future improvements, the Governing Board believe, it is vital that we work together in partnership with a like-minded group of schools on our journey to providing a great education for all children in our community and this decision is a timely and crucial step in this direction. It is getting harder for schools to stand alone, and Governors felt it was important for us to make this informed decision whilst we still had the opportunity to work with a MAT of our choice.

If you have any questions, please email the school office (office@brooksideacademy.co.uk) and, if needed, I will compile a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. I will also keep you all updated on decisions and timelines in the coming weeks and months. If there is enough interest, I would also be happy to host an evening session to share more detail about why Brookside's Governors came to this unanimous decision.

As always, please feel that you can meet with me or talk to me on the phone.

Yours sincerely,



Brian Walton