



22nd May 2024

Dear Parents

Following on from the information provided by email and in the meetings held to date we were informed last week that the Department of Education has approved our request to join the Lumen Learning Trust.

What does this mean?

In many ways, it is the same as buying a house. You have a good look on the websites, looking at what is available, you narrow down the ones you want to look at in person, you poke around, open some cupboards, have a second or even third viewing, check out the area and the neighbours and then put in an offer.

This is where we are – the offer has been accepted - now we send in the surveyors and the lawyers to check that everything is as we believe it is before proceeding to exchange and completion.

With an academy conversion, this is a two-way process – the academy we are joining will carry out due diligence on us at the same time as we will be on them. We also have our current “owner” – Surrey County Council – who, among other things has to show the legal title to, and grant the long lease of, the school site.

This will all take some time and the timing of some parts, particularly the work needed by Surrey CC, is outside our control so this will not happen quickly.

The final sign-off requires 3 signatures, Ewell Grove, Lumen Learning Trust and the Department of Education, who have the final decision.

I attach the document sent out recently which sets out everything which has happened to date. This document is on our website and as things progress we will update the what is Next section. We welcome any questions but do check this document first to see if there is any update which answers your question.

There will now be a formal consultation. Stakeholders (staff, parents and community) have the right to be consulted on the Governing Boards decision to join a MAT. Stakeholders do not take part in the decision making about which specific Trust. The parent body have delegated this responsibility to their appointed representatives of the elected Governing Board. The views of stakeholders on joining a MAT, or not, will be taken into account by the Governing Board.

We are currently arranging this and we will keep you updated as we continue this journey.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Tillen
Chair of Governors