

6 March 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

Public Consultation

I am writing to you on behalf of Learn@ MAT which runs 7 regional Academies for young people with Social, Emotional, Mental Health needs (SEMH), Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN), or in need of Alternative Provision.

We are consulting with our stakeholders on one proposed change:

To move 42 Bath & North East Somerset Council (BANES) commissioned places and the operation of the Rush Hill site (Rush Hill, Bath, BA2 2QL) from Lansdown Park Academy to St Matthias Academy with effect from 1 September 2023.

Please find details about the change below. This consultation runs from Monday 6 March 2023 until Sunday 2 April 2023 and details of how to have your say or ask any questions are given at the end of this letter.

Lansdown Park Academy had an Ofsted inspection in February 2022 and was judged to be inadequate. Subsequently, the Department for Education (DfE) decided that the academy should be sponsored by a different trust. The DfE's preferred trust for Lansdown Park Academy to move to is Cabot Learning Federation (CLF). CLF are in the process of undertaking due diligence and the change is subject to being scrutinised by the Regions Group Advisory Board and approval by the South West Regional Director.

As a consequence, the trustees of Learn@ MAT decided that the other academies in the trust should be transferred to another trust. After a period of reviewing a number of options the preferred trust for St Matthias Academy to be transferred to was Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership (MNSP).

There is a change that could potentially occur to the places commissioned at Lansdown Park Academy by local authorities. BANES have submitted a free school application for a new alternative provision school. If BANES are successful with this bid then this school will deliver the provision that is currently provided via the 42 commissioned places at Lansdown Park Academy and it is expected that BANES would give notice on that commissioned service.

To minimise the number of changes that may take place at Lansdown Park Academy the proposal is to move the BANES commissioned places currently fulfilled by Lansdown Park Academy to St Matthias Academy and move the operation of the Rush Hill site from Lansdown Park Academy to St Matthias Academy. This change will then result in the BANES commissioned places sitting within MNSP and will continue to sit within that trust if the bid for the new free school is successful.

The change being proposed will only proceed if it is approved by the South West Regional Director for Lansdown Park Academy to be sponsored by CLF and for St Matthias Academy to be transferred to MNSP.

Currently members of staff employed by Learn@ MAT who work at Lansdown Park Academy may work at either the Stockwood or Rush Hill site and are deployed accordingly. Therefore a review will need to be undertaken of the staffing structure to determine whether members of staff should remain affiliated with Lansdown Park Academy or move to St Matthias Academy. Changes will be required to both Lansdown Park Academy and St Matthias Academy staffing structures. If this change is approved by the DfE then a full staff consultation will take place.

No changes are anticipated to be required to governance.

There are no anticipated significant financial impacts. The contract for the BANES commissioned places is between BANES and Learn@ MAT and not a specific academy. BANES will of course be consulted on this change.

Consultation feedback

We would really appreciate your feedback. There is the opportunity to ask questions through our public consultation meeting, or through our enclosed questionnaire, which can also be accessed via our website www.learnmat.uk

Our public consultation meeting will be held at Lansdown Park Academy, Stockwood Lane, Bristol, BS14 8SJ on Thursday 16 March 2023 from 4.30pm – 6.30pm. If you are unable to attend the consultation meeting you can always send your queries to info@learnmat.uk and we will get back to you.

We look forward to hearing from you, receiving your questionnaire feedback, and/or talking with you at our consultation meeting.

Yours faithfully



Colin Cattanach
Interim CEO