



Unity Education Trust

1 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to advise you of an exciting new development for our Trust and schools.

As a Trust and a family of schools, we are committed to providing your children with the very best opportunities for education and support. In previous communications I have shared with you the benefits of working with other schools and academy trusts to share best practice, to further raise standards and secure operational economies of scale.

Unity Education Trust (comprising Beeston Primary School, Garvestone Primary School, the Federation of Grove House and King's Park Infant Schools, Northgate High School and Dereham Sixth Form College, The Pinetree School, and The Short Stay School For Norfolk) has been working very closely with KWEST, a multi-academy trust based in the West of Norfolk comprised of seven schools; Churchill Park Academy (Complex Needs School), Greyfriars Academy, Highgate Infant, Kings Oak Academy, Magdalen Academy, St Germans Academy, Wimbotsham & Stow Academy. As a result of this work, both Trusts agreed to formalise this partnership working further and just before Christmas we submitted an application for KWEST to join our UET family of schools. I am very pleased to inform you that this application was approved by the Regional Schools Commissioners Head Teacher Board and as such we now have the green light to engage with KWEST further and start developing our formal collaboration with the aim to complete a merger in the coming months.

The collaboration between our two Trusts has been secured through an agreed SLA and will be initially based on the part-time secondment of UET's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Glyn Hambling, to be Interim CEO for KWEST supported by the release of central leadership support.

Work will now begin to complete the necessary legal and other steps which will result in KWEST staff and premises being transferred to UET. Our two Trusts hope to complete this process by the end of this academic year.

The merger will allow us to consolidate the benefits of our collaboration to date and to extend those benefits:

- educationally (e.g. larger pool of teachers for dissemination of best practice; joint CPD; learning from working with pupils with different needs; curriculum development; cross-Trust quality assurance, challenge and support)



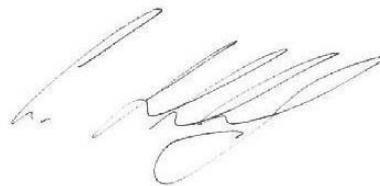
- financially (e.g. economies of scale and greater procurement bargaining power; internal efficiencies from back office work; further support to drive school improvement)
- capacity (combining the two Trusts will enhance the skills and experience sets of Members and the Trust Board and facilitate strengthening governance at all levels).

The merger will not alter the way our schools work day-to-day nor will staff, students and parents notice any significant differences. UET schools will continue, as now, with their own identities and there will be no changes to admissions arrangements, uniforms, premises etc. Each of our schools will remain focused on delivering excellent teaching and learning within its local community and will remain the point of contact for parents and carers. What, we believe, students, staff and parents will notice over time are additional opportunities being made available and the positive benefits these will have for all.

We will keep you informed as the merger process proceeds but, in the meantime, we welcome any comments you wish us to consider or questions you would like answered. Please address these to commentsquestions@unityeducationtrust.uk by Friday 12th February 2021.



Edward Colman
Chair of Trustees
Unity Education Trust



Glyn Hambling
Chief Executive Officer
Unity Education Trust