

29<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Parent

I am delighted to (finally!) be able to write to you to confirm that we will be converting as an Academy in partnership with St Nicholas First School on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016. Unfortunately, I have been unable to confirm this before now due to the Department for Education rules on communication.

Existing parents will be aware that we undertook our consultation on this issue during the last academic year. However, a number of administration and technical delays have forced us to postpone our conversion date until now. I would like to reassure you that it will still be “business as usual” as far as the two schools are concerned. Conversion to Academy status is mainly a Governance and Administration change. Our focus will always remain on improving the educational experience of the pupils in our care. Indeed, it is likely that all schools (locally and nationally) will become academies in the next few years. We have decided to take this step now to ensure we are in control of our schools’ future.

I have included the new logo for the Codsall Multi Academy trust. This will not replace our existing logo, but will be used alongside, particularly when communicating issues concerning both schools. The four small circles emanating from the main hub represent each of the key stages within the Trust: Early Years Foundation Stage, KS1, KS2 and KS3. We believe that this formal partnership will give us the impetus to work more effectively across the different key stages. Indeed, we are also in regular discussion with Codsall High School and there is a real drive across both schools to raise the importance of collaborative working across Key Stage 3 and into Key stages 4 and 5.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new pupils and parents to our school community. We really have “hit the ground running” and I believe this has been the most successful start to a new year in my time here. All new pupils appear to have settled very quickly and are already working successfully in lessons and engaging with wider school activities.

I would like to thank all existing pupils for helping us make such a positive start. I am always so proud of how our pupils conduct themselves in school and it is so pleasing to see our current pupils helping our new children if they appear a little lost or confused!

I would like to welcome our new Teachers to the school. Mr Tatton (Physical Education), Miss Taffs (Maths), Mrs Thompson (D&T teacher and Teaching Community Leader) and Miss Holloway (English). We also welcome back Mrs Griffiths (English) from maternity leave and Ms Smith joins us full-time to teach music. We have an outstanding body of teachers at Codsall Middle School and our new colleagues are building on that expertise and are already making a significant positive impact in the school.

You may also have heard that we have made significant improvements to the school buildings over the summer. We have installed a double size music classroom next to our existing portable building. It is a wonderful teaching space and this, along with the full time appointment of Mrs Smith, will help us to significantly boost our Music and Performing Arts provision. Our old music room has been completely remodelled to provide two new Maths teaching rooms, with state of the art ICT facilities.

There is a very positive, purposeful atmosphere in the school and I am sure we will continue to grow from strength to strength as the term develops.

Finally, can I remind you of our Parent consultation evenings on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of November? I look forward to seeing many of you then.

Regards

P J Bowers  
Headteacher