

Ref: PSH

29th April 2021

Dear parents/carers,

The Governing Body of Oldbury Academy would welcome your views through a consultation on our proposal to move from being a Single Academy Trust to joining one of several schools in an existing Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). A MAT is a charitable organisation with several schools working closely together as one legal entity.

For some months now we at Oldbury Academy have been working with the Stour Vale Academy Trust on school improvement, teacher training and development, and have found that they share our approach to education and welfare of students.

Stour Vale was founded in 2017 by one primary and two secondary schools who recognised the significant benefits of working collaboratively. Since then, Stour Vale has steadily grown. It now has six member schools across Sandwell and Dudley, namely Newtown Primary School, Northfield Road Primary School, Olive Hill Primary School, Redhill School, Ridgewood High School and The Earls High School. Their governance arrangements allow each school to have their own distinctive and individual identity whilst actively working in partnership. Their schools have a shared aim that every student will make excellent progress in their academic achievement and character development, and that they will enjoy the experience to the full. Their ethos is based on core values of trust and transparency and their model offers opportunities to work with other schools locally and across the MAT on such issues as school improvement, professional development as well as benefitting from economies of scale. As such, I feel that Stour Vale Academy Trust offers many opportunities to Oldbury Academy as we continue our improvement journey.

Our school ethos, values and vision will remain under the control of the school, there will be no change of uniform, curriculum or policy in terms of admissions, behaviour or other aspects of students' experience.

Benefits of being part of a Multi Academy Trust

- We will be able to share best practice and expertise with other schools more formally and sustainably than we have done in the past, enabling us to continually improve teaching and learning so that students of Oldbury Academy and across the MAT receive and increasingly outstanding education
- We will be better placed to recruit, retain and train teachers, future teachers, leaders and support staff so that teaching quality improves and there is less disruption to learning
- We will be able to share resources and so broaden the curricular, extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities that exist for students
- We will be able to achieve improved economies of scale in our purchasing and this will enable us to target more funds towards students



The final decision to join Stour Vale Academy Trust will be taken by the Governing Body and will be based on the best interests of students, staff and the wider community. As part of the decision making process, the Governing Body is committed to consulting with stakeholders so that their views are taken into account in reaching a final decision.

The consultation period will cover the four-week period from Wednesday 28th April to Friday 28th May 2021. If you would like to comment on this proposal, or if you have any suggestions or observations you would like to make, then please put them to me in writing, alternatively you can email me: matconsultation@oldburyacademy.org.uk. Any responses received after 3:00pm on Friday 28th May 2021 will not be considered. A nil response will be interpreted as being broadly supportive of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Shackleton', written in a cursive style.

Mr P. Shackleton
Headteacher