



6 November 2020

Dear All,

You may or may not be aware that Parley First, Ferndown First and Ferndown Middle Schools have been exploring the possibility of becoming part of a Multi Academy Trust. They have looked at the options available to them locally, sought the views of their school communities and listened to the feedback of staff, parents and other partners.

We are delighted to inform you that on 4 November, 2020, the Governors of these schools, made the decision to become part of the Castleman Academy Trust and we hope to convert on 1 January 2021, COVID restrictions notwithstanding.

For the past two years, Governors and the Headteachers of these schools, and Broadstone First and Middle, have explored the options available, wanting to ensure that any changes would lead to improvements for pupils, their families and staff. We have worked to develop ways of working that are the right fit for all our schools and believe that the caring and inclusive culture of Castleman Academy Trust, which values each individual, fits most closely with every school's ethos.

We firmly believe this move will improve teaching and learning for all our children, will add capacity to staffing and improve training opportunities. Added to this, being a part of a larger Trust will enable us to more efficiently and effectively generate financial efficiencies which will directly impact on the quality of education provided as well as resources and improvements to the school site.

Children and families at Broadstone First and Middle Schools won't see any immediate changes. However, schools locally and nationally are all having to work within an ever changing education system, and now more than ever, are facing increased demands and challenges. In working closely with each other, we can protect the pyramid of schools, use greater flexibilities provided as being part of a Trust and retain the strong governance and individual ethos of each school in the Trust. We firmly believe that academy conversion, and becoming part of a strong Trust, we can offer even stronger opportunities for our children to progress and achieve.

Thank you for your support and feedback whilst we developed our plans. We will of course keep you updated as we progress but as ever, if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Stay safe and well.

Rhonda Moore
Chief Executive Officer