

# Grove Road Primary School



Tuesday 28th November 2017

## Academy Conversion

Dear parents,

I am writing to provide an update on the school's conversion to academy status.

Following parent and staff consultations, the Governing Body has voted to convert Grove Road Primary School to academy status and the Secretary of State has issued the school with an academy order. I would like to thank parents and staff for their engagement and input during the consultation process, which helped governors evaluate the strategic options for the school in the face of a changing education landscape.

## Multi Academy Trust

A MAT is a group of schools that work together under a formal agreement, governed by a single board of trustees. Funded direct by the Department for Education and independent of the local authority, a MAT has charitable status, and all funds received by the school within the MAT must be used to benefit the children it serves.

In recent years, MATs have emerged as the preferred structure for formal collaboration between local schools. In addition to assessing other options, governors evaluated the benefits of joining or creating a local MAT with other local schools.

## Ridgeway Learning Partnership

Tring School's conversion from a Single Academy Trust to a Multi Academy Trust provided an opportunity for Grove Road Primary School and Tring School to join together to create a MAT, which will be known as the Ridgeway Learning Partnership. Grove Road Primary School will become an academy and join the Ridgeway Learning Partnership from 1st December 2017. The Ridgeway Learning Partnership will strengthen local education by sharing best practice and teaching expertise across schools, whilst further improving the transition from primary to secondary school for pupils. It is expected that other local schools may wish to apply to join the MAT in the future.

Many of the changes won't be immediately visible to pupils or parents. The school will continue to be called Grove Road Primary School, on the same site, with the same uniform, values, pupils and staff.

However, governance of the school will change. A board of trustees will be responsible for the strategic direction and leadership of the Ridgeway Learning Partnership. The trustees of the Ridgeway Learning Partnership are members of the local community with a broad range of business, education and leadership skills, who are committed to creating outstanding learning opportunities for local young people. The trustees include three former governors of Grove Road Primary School and the previous Deputy Head, who brings extensive experience and knowledge of primary education and our school to the board. With the exception of a part-time CEO (to be appointed) the trustees are all volunteers who receive no remuneration for the role they perform.

The school's governing body will become an Academy Governing Body, also known as a Local Governing Body, and will continue to be responsible for the day-to-day strategic

leadership and governance of the school. Effective governance relies on clear separation of roles and accountability between trustees and members of the Local Governing Body.

Therefore, after four years as Chair of Governors, I will be stepping down as a governor and leaving the Local Governing Body to take up a role as a trustee of the Ridgeway Learning Partnership.

I am delighted to announce that Julian Cacchioli has been appointed as the new Chair of Governors of Grove Road Primary School. Since joining the governing body, Julian has been an enthusiastic and committed governor and I am confident he will lead the governing body and the school to continued success in the coming years. I wish Julian every success in his new role and would like to thank all of the governors for their hard work, dedication and support over the last four years.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julian Crane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Julian Crane  
Chair of Governors