



## LORDSWOOD ACADEMIES TRUST

*learning, achievement, transformation*

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8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parent

I hope that you have had a good summer and that you and your families are keeping well. At the start of this new academic year, I wanted to write to you to share with you the Trust's plans for the future development of Lordswood Academies Trust.

You may be aware that Lordswood Academies Trust (LAT) is a 'multi-academy trust' that initially comprised Lordswood Girls' School and Lordswood Boys' School but now consists solely of the Girls' School. Over the last few years, trustees have been considering the future direction for the Trust in order to ensure that it is well placed to continue in its mission to provide a high quality education and opportunities for all students and that Lordswood Girls' Schools is able to build on its position as one of the highest performing schools both locally and nationally.

These considerations have now led to discussions with the King Edward VI Foundation whose values and ethos align closely with those of LAT with a view to Lordswood Girls' School joining the King Edward VI Academy Trust from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022.

The King Edward VI Foundation's mission is to make Birmingham the best place to be educated in the UK.

With twelve schools in the city, the King Edward VI Foundation is the largest provider of secondary school places in Birmingham outside the city council, educating more than 11,700 young people between the ages of 11 and 18.

The Foundation's roots in education go back to the 16th century with the establishment of King Edward's School in 1552. Its approach has been consistent throughout - recognising that an excellent education opens doors and changes futures. Its goal is to enable students to lead fulfilling lives and contribute to society based on strong shared values, and care and respect for others.

It is committed to developing curiosity, independence of mind and a love of learning, with every student enjoying a range of activities within and beyond the classroom. These include sport, music, drama, outdoor pursuits and involvement in the community, whether at home or further afield.

The Foundation's diverse range of schools – independent, state selective and comprehensive – ensures that every young person, regardless of background or circumstances, can benefit from educational excellence.

Lordswood Academies Trust shares this commitment to educational excellence for all and believes that becoming part of the King Edward VI Foundation will ensure that Lordswood Girls' School is well-placed to remain at the cutting edge of education and to meet whatever challenges lie ahead. This partnership has been encouraged by the Department for Education and the trustees and governors of LAT and the trustees of the King Edward VI Foundation are keen for this move to go ahead. A final decision will be taken by the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC).

We are now consulting with staff, parents, carers, students and the community. The consultation period will run from 8<sup>th</sup> October – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The Trust will then consider points that have been raised before any final sign off. Should you have any questions or comments, please email [consultation@lordswoodtrust.co.uk](mailto:consultation@lordswoodtrust.co.uk) or [WMRSC.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk](mailto:WMRSC.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk)

You may also find the **Frequently Asked Questions** section at the end of this letter helpful.

I hope that you will agree that this is a really exciting opportunity for both students and staff and one that will enable Lordswood Girls' School to maintain its culture of high expectations and its mission to deliver engaging teaching and high-quality learning in a supportive and inclusive environment.

Yours sincerely,



**Miss Julie Lennon**

**Chair of Lordswood Academies Trust**

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **Why does Lordswood Academies Trust want to join another Multi-Academy Trust?**

Currently Lordswood Academies Trust comprises only Lordswood Girls' School. A school working on its own has much less scope to widen the opportunities offered to students and staff and the Department for Education recognises the power of collaboration and is actively encouraging schools to be part of larger Trusts in order to obtain the benefits from wider collaboration.

### **Were other options considered before deciding to join the King Edward VI Foundation?**

For the last three years, trustees have considered various options for the development of Lordswood Academies Trust to ensure that we not only remain both educationally and financially sustainable for the future but are also able to build on our established track record of educational excellence. The values of the King Edward VI Foundation and its commitment to improving outcomes for all students align with those of Lordswood and give us the confidence that joining the Academy Trust will enable us to build on our achievements to date.

### **What benefits will being part of the King Edward VI Foundation bring for Lordswood Girls' School?**

Lordswood Girls' School is committed to improving on its previous best and is continually focused on school improvement. By joining a strong, established Academy Trust, one that we know well, we will be able to

- continue to build on our core vision for our school;
- share and develop excellent practice in teaching and learning;
- maintain curriculum breadth and opportunity
- further develop our post -16 provision;
- enhance the professional development of teaching and support staff and retain and attract the most capable staff;
- increase mutual accountability, challenge and support for school leadership and governors;
- secure financial efficiencies through coordinated resource planning and joint commissioning of services; and
- respond to changes in Government policy proactively and efficiently.

**What will change at Lordswood Girls' School?**

We will remain a non-selective school and continue to celebrate the rich ethnic and cultural diversity that sets the school apart. There will be no change therefore to admissions arrangements. Lordswood Girls' School will be known as King Edward VI Lordswood Girls' School. There will be no change to our mission statement and we will still be Lordswood Girls' School, but with new opportunities to deliver a high standard of education for all our students. Our school ethos and values will remain at the heart of everything we do.

We are confident that by joining the King Edward VI Foundation, Lordswood Girls' School will continue to flourish whilst benefiting from additional opportunities for collaboration and joint working with other schools in the King Edward VI Academy Trust, from teaching and learning, finance, HR, health and safety and more. These opportunities will further enrich what we are able to offer to our students.

**What will Lordswood Academies Trust bring to the King Edward VI Foundation?**

Lordswood Girls' School is recognised as a successful, high performing school with a highly, skilled and committed workforce. The school has five Specialist Leaders in Education who are already supporting other schools across south west Birmingham and Lordswood Girls' School will therefore be able to make a positive contribution to the King Edward VI Foundation's mission to make Birmingham the best place to be educated in the UK.

**How will joining the King Edward VI Foundation affect governance, leadership and management?**

All trustees have been fully involved in discussions about the future development of the Trust and governors and staff are all aware of the proposals. When Lordswood Girls' School moves to the King Edward VI Foundation, they will assume responsibility for the strategic development of the school. The governing body will maintain its oversight of standards and achievement and Mrs Cooney, as Head teacher will retain responsibility for the day to day operation of the school. The school will continue to receive the same amount of funding but will make a contribution to central costs such as HR, finance and site services.

**How will staff employed by Lordswood Academies Trust be affected?**

At the point of transfer, all staff will become employees of the King Edward VI Academy Trust and continue to perform their roles as before. Continuous service dates will be recognised. The King Edward VI Foundation recognises the Burgundy and Green Books and pension schemes will remain the same. Leading up to the transfer a period of staff consultation will take place. All staff will have the opportunity to ask any questions regarding the transfer during this process.

A clear benefit of working as part of a larger Academy Trust, are the greater opportunities for career development and collaboration with a wider number of schools which will also enable enhanced professional development.

