



17<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### **Consultation Letter to the community**

The Governing Body of The Wordsley School would welcome your views on our proposal to move from being a Local Authority maintained school 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 the Governors and senior leadership team have been discussing the future strategic direction of our school and the benefits of joining a Multi Academy Trust. During this time, we have been working with the Stour Vale Academy Trust on specific areas of school improvement and have found that they share our approach to education and welfare of students.

The Wordsley School has a proud history, and our ethos is built on our motto BELIEVE, ACHIEVE, INSPIRE, which is underpinned by our five school values of curiosity, integrity, kindness, resilience and respect. We aim to offer the very best education we can for the children and community we serve. To ensure we continue to develop we will always explore opportunities where we can work with others to ensure the pupils at our school can access the very best education possible.

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 eleven member schools across Sandwell, Dudley and Worcestershire, namely Holywell Primary & Nursery School, Lavender Farm Nursery, Moat Farm Infant School, Moat Farm Junior School, Newtown Primary School, Northfield Road Primary School, Oldbury Academy, Olive Hill Primary School, Queen Victoria 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 The Wordsley School 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.

**BELIEVE • ACHIEVE • INSPIRE**

**The Wordsley School · Brierley Hill Road · Wordsley · Near Stourbridge · DY8 5SP  
(01384) 816015 · [info@wordsley.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@wordsley.dudley.sch.uk)  
Headteacher: Mr A Weatherhogg**

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 our school 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 Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024 to Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024. If you would like to comment on this proposal, if you have any questions about the 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 at [consultation@wordsley.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@wordsley.dudley.sch.uk) . Any responses received after Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 will not be considered. A nil response will be interpreted as being broadly supportive of the proposal.

We will also be hosting a public consultation meeting on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 5.30pm in the school hall, where members of the governing body, Stour Vale representatives and myself will be available to answer any questions.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Cooper  
Chair of Governors

Yours sincerely



Ashley Weatherhogg  
Headteacher

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