



Thursday 13th October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to you as joint Trust Leaders to let you know about a very exciting potential opportunity for both Lingfield Education Trust and the James Cook Learning Trust.

In the latter part of the summer term we had some tentative conversations about the possibility of working much more closely together with a view to the two trusts joining at some point in the future.

We have jointly had a number of conversations with our Trustees and with the Department for Education, both of whom have encouraged us to take the conversation one step further and conduct some early consultation with stakeholders.

Both trusts are committed to making a difference to our children, staff and communities and we feel together we can be stronger.

We want to stress to you that this is very much the first step of the journey, it's a journey that we want all of our teams to feel engaged and part of. We think the reasons for joining together are best summarised as follows:

- · Sharing educational excellence
- Economic sustainability and economies of scale
- Personnel and leadership succession planning
- Futureproofing and organisational resilience
- Developing the central team and the support it can provide to schools
- Improving governance through greater strategic oversight
- · Greater community, potential political influence and public profile
- · Local and wider community benefits

Most importantly Trustees feel very strongly that we are built on Vision & Values that chime, we have a chance to build something very special together.

Moving forwards, we will open a four-week consultation with you from today, Thursday 13th October. During this time there will be a 'face to face' event in each trust and an opportunity for you to send your views to us.

Please send any comments/questions to - <u>JCLTConsultation@jclt.org.uk</u>

Consultation event for all schools – Tuesday 8th November 5pm, Marton Manor Primary School

We really look forward to hearing your views and comments.

Emma Watson Chief Executive

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James Cook Learning Trust

Nick Blackburn FRSA Chief Executive

Lingfield Education Trust