

Announcement of intent to form a new multi-academy trust

Dear Parents and Carers

In Horsham we are fortunate to have a fantastic choice of strong local schools, each with their own individual character. There are also well-developed partnerships across the town. All the secondary schools and the sixth form college meet regularly and collaborate as part of a soft federation. In both the East and the West of the town primary and secondary schools work closely together in similar partnership arrangements.

Over the last couple of years, senior leaders and governors at The College of Richard Collyer and The Forest School have been carefully considering the future and how closer formal collaboration could bring even greater benefits to our institutions and the young people of Horsham. In March 2023 we shared with local school leaders that we were actively exploring academisation as a way to achieve this ambition. Working together we developed the mission, vision and values for a new multi-academy trust that will be all through, covering ages from nursery, primary, secondary to post-16. As part of the project we consulted with a number of local schools to ensure we are building something that is an attractive model for others to join. The new trust will be called the Horsham Learning Alliance.

Now Collyer's and Forest have resolved to submit applications to become founding partners of this new trust and we would like to jointly share this news with both our parent and carer communities. We are confident that our vision is a strong one and, if successful in our application, we will move to formal public consultation and provide full information about our plans. Our mission is to use the power of education to improve the lives of local young people, building on the individual strengths of each of our partner schools to become even stronger as one trust. Once formed we hope very much that other schools in the town will want to join us, preserving their unique cultures whilst benefitting from being part of a larger collaborative group.

We will write again as soon as there is progress with our project and as always thank you for your continued support for our two learning communities.

Yours sincerely



Dan Lodge
Principal



Ian Straw
Headteacher



Graham Lawrence
Chair of Governing Body



Cliff Purvis
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