

15<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Dear Parents & Carers,

**Consultation on forming a multi-academy trust with Elstow School**

We wrote last month to explain that the Governors at both BFS and Elstow School had agreed in principle to come together to form a "multi-academy trust".

This means that Elstow School would convert to academy status, and our the existing academy trust - which currently just runs BFS - would change in a number of important ways.

It would expand to take responsibility for Elstow School and some of the current Elstow governors would join the Trust. Also, we would carve out a separate "Local Governing Body" to oversee each school and hold the Head Teacher to account.

As we are planning to make these sorts of changes we need to run a formal consultation to seek opinions on the proposal and inform our plans.

**The consultation will run from Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November until Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January**, in order to allow a full six school weeks for responses.

To help with this, we have set up a page on the school website where we will post information and updates as we proceed. The page can be found here:

<http://www.bedfordfreeschool.co.uk/about/multi-academy-trust.php>

We have also organised a number of ways that people can communicate with us if they have any questions or contributions to make:

- you can email us on [consultation@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk](mailto:consultation@bedfordfreeschool.co.uk)
- you can call BFS on 01234 332299 and ask to speak to Mr Lehain
- we have arranged for drop in sessions at the following times/places
  - o 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2.45pm – 3.45pm – at Elstow School
  - o 5<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm – 8pm – at Bedford Free School

We are keen to hear your views on our plans – so please do make use of the opportunity to share them with us as we embark on an exciting next stage of the school's development.



Nigel Syson  
**Chair of Governors**  
Bedford Free School



Mark Lehain  
**Principal**  
Bedford Free School