



Marden Primary School and Leigh Academies Trust

The Governing Body of Marden Primary School (MPS) has agreed that, subject to consultation and completion of full due diligence, the school is interested in becoming an academy within Leigh Academies Trust (LAT).

LAT already operates several schools in the local area. Mascalls Academy is the most popular secondary school for Marden's Year 6 pupils and it joined LAT in 2015. Paddock Wood Primary Academy and Horsmonden Primary Academy are also members of LAT. By joining the Trust, Marden will work in a cluster with these local schools and receive significant support from LAT. The Governing Body believes that there are a number of advantages offered by a formal alliance within a multi-academy trust and that it would allow MPS to offer seamless all-through education for children.

MPS has recently been judged Good by Ofsted. The school provides education for 265 pupils at present. Up to 40 reception places are available each year.

LAT comprises 13 primary schools, 11 secondary schools and a large special school. LAT also has 3 new free schools opening soon. All LAT academies are geographically clustered in Kent, Medway, Bexley and Greenwich. LAT also manages Kent and Medway Training, a large initial teacher training provider serving over 60 primary and secondary schools, plus Medway Teaching School Alliance, assisting 70 schools to provide professional development for teachers and leaders.

Full and detailed due diligence and consultation with all stakeholders, including the staff and parents of MPS will be undertaken over the next few weeks. This means that MPS and LAT will be finding out everything we can about each other before we both make a final decision.

Simon Beamish, Chief Executive of Leigh Academies Trust, said:

"This exciting partnership gives us the chance to strengthen community links for Marden. MPS, Paddock Wood Primary, Horsmonden Primary and Mascalls will be working closely together for the same families so that children receive the best possible joined-up education. We look forward to developing positive professional relationships with new colleagues over the next few months while we explore the many benefits that this partnership can bring."

Tracy Thomas, Headteacher of Marden Primary School, added:

"The Governing Body and I are excited by the opportunities that joining LAT will offer. The extensive operational support and focused school improvement advice will enable MPS to accelerate improvements to teaching and learning. There will also be greater potential to partner with local schools in the academy trust and to share good practice. I feel that, with the support and expertise offered by the Trust, we can drive further improvement at Marden and give our children the best possible start to their education."

Simon Beamish
Chief Executive
Leigh Academies Trust

Tracy Thomas
Headteacher
Marden Primary School