



15<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Letter to Parents about North View Academy joining WISE Multi Academy Trust**

Following the adverse judgment of the Ofsted inspection completed in November 2016, the Department for Education (DFE) stated that North View Academy would be required to join a Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

The Regional Schools Commissioner, whose main responsibilities include taking action where academies and free schools are under performing, arranged for members of the regional headteachers board (HTB) to visit the school. HTBs are made up of experienced headteachers and other sector leaders who advise, support and challenge the Regional Schools Commissioner on the decisions they make.

The HTB members were suitably impressed with what they saw on the visit and also with the Post Ofsted Action Plan drawn up by the school's leadership team. Most schools placed in special measures are not afforded the choice to which MAT they should join, however we were. Hence, Governors and Staff drew up a list of possible MATs.

Eventually two were shortlisted for further investigation. The two MATs were visited by members of the governing body and staff and leaders from the two MATs visited North View.

The Governing Body opted to join WISE academies, an established local MAT with relevant expertise and a national reputation as a Teaching School. WISE academies MAT is made up of Town End Academy, Bexhill Academy, Hasting Hill Academy, Welbeck Academy, Adderlane Academy and Prudhoe West Academy.

Joining a MAT is similar to a merger or acquisition within the business world. It is therefore necessary that a due diligence exercise is completed by both parties to make sure that they fit and are right for each other. Due diligence includes examining their respective ethos, values, priorities, operational methods and financial resources.

What will happen when we join the MAT? It is expected that most of the day to day running of the school will remain the same, i.e. the interaction between pupils, parents, carers and staff will be as it is now and the character of the school will remain the same.

The board at WISE formally agreed to North View Academy joining WISE on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 and it is expected that we will be joining the MAT in September 2018.

There is more information about MAT academies on the DfE website: <http://www.education.gov.uk/academies>

If you can't find the answer to your question here, or on the DfE website, please contact North View Academy and we will try to assist.

Although North View Academy was given no choice but to join a MAT, being part of a MAT will however mean that there will be more support available for the school leadership. There is also growing evidence that MATs whose schools are geographically close to others in the trust find it easier to access the benefits of collaboration.

**Ms A Godfrey**  
**On behalf of the Governing Body**