

Clapham Terrace Community Primary School & Nursery

Caring Achieving Respectful Learners

Clapham Terrace, Leamington Spa, CV31 1HZ

Tel: 01926 423404 / 01926 430854

Email: admin2312@welearn365.com Web: www.claphamterrace.info

Headteacher: Mrs Julie Miles

April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Proposed conversion of Clapham Terrace Community Primary School and Nursery to become an Academy as a founding member of the Warwick Schools Foundation Multi Academy Trust

We are excited to write to you with details of an important proposal that will shape and provide security for the continuing success of Clapham Terrace Primary School. In recent months, the School Leadership and Governing Body have been examining an opportunity to help found the Warwick Schools Foundation Multi Academy Trust (WSF MAT), a brand-new Academy Trust that, with the support of the Warwick Schools Foundation and alongside 3 other local State Schools, will place inclusion, academic excellence and Special Educational Needs at its core, together with a step change in the breadth and depth of educational opportunities we can offer to the children.

Other MATs that include Primary Schools have existed locally for years. Uniquely, this Trust is being formed from the ground up, allowing us to shape and design a structure that ensures Clapham Terrace can continue to offer the inimitable education of which we are all so proud. Following our consideration of the plan, the Governors voted unanimously in February to move to this next step of sharing the proposal with you all and answering questions that may arise.

Why do we want to become part of a Multi Academy Trust?

As a leading school in the local consortium, we already understand and enjoy the benefits of collaboration. Being a member of a MAT extends and secures these advantages, allowing the sharing of resources and expertise, collaboration, staff development, administrative efficiencies, and economies of scale which simply aren't otherwise available to a small school. It will offer our children greater opportunities in their daily learning, the chance for our staff to develop within a bigger family and ongoing support for our leadership and administrative team with the ever-growing demands they currently manage alone.

What are the benefits to Clapham Terrace of joining the WSF MAT?

We believe that the numerous shared values and already observed benefits across the group of schools make the proposal to formalise relations a natural transition for us, and importantly one that ensures Clapham Terrace can continue to provide outstanding education. Two of the schools in the proposed MAT are specialist schools: our existing partnership with one of them has already demonstrated the value of their expertise to our school. One is another successful state primary with the same commitment to inclusion and



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excellence that we are proud of at Clapham. And as a charitable organisation, WSF can offer access to a host of resources, both physical and administrative, that are not currently available to us as a Local Authority school and from which our children have already seen benefits, including attendance at an Artificial Intelligence day, an Oracy day and the use of sporting facilities on the Warwick School campus.

This application, if approved, will see us move away from being a LA Maintained school, although rest assured, we will keep our very close relationship with Warwickshire County Council - indeed we are pleased to be able to report that the proposed MAT has full support from County Council leaders.

At the heart of the WSF MAT is a dedication to social cohesion and mobility. By fostering collaboration and inclusion, the aim of the MAT will be to enable children to work together and develop relationships from the earliest ages and across all phases of education as well as accessing the very best resources, experiences and facilities. It should not matter what school your child attends, because they all live in and contribute to the local community – and will continue to do so after leaving school.

Currently four state schools are proposing to join WSF MAT at its founding stage. These schools are:

- Clapham Terrace Primary School
- Evergreen School
- Exhall Grange Specialist School
- Westgate Primary School

The primary purpose of WSF MAT will be to enable and support schools to continue serving their individual communities as effectively as possible. Importantly, the MAT will work to support schools to protect their identity but also to provide opportunities for collaboration and sharing of services, delivering economies of scale unavailable to us as stand-alone schools. By joining the WSF MAT, Clapham Terrace will become part of a larger family, where resources and expertise are shared for the benefit of all children, staff and families.

We firmly believe that becoming a part of this MAT will enhance and safeguard for the future our ability to provide exceptional educational experiences for our children while maintaining the unique identity and ethos of our School.

What Changes will there be to Clapham?

A key factor in our enthusiasm for this MAT proposal is that commitment that all Schools will retain their unique identities and ethos. Your child will attend school exactly as they do now, there will be no change to uniform policy, no change to the school name and no change to our Admissions, which will still be overseen by the Local Council. The school day, term dates and



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Rockets provision will remain unchanged – much of the changes that are involved in becoming an academy happen behind the scenes and will only be apparent in greater opportunities for the children and staff as we gain access to the increased resources and autonomy that being in the WSF MAT will bring.

About the Warwick Schools Foundation

WSF is an education charity which currently consists of 5 independent schools, Warwick Preparatory School, Warwick Junior School, Warwick Senior School, King's High School and The Kingsley School. If approved, WSF MAT will become a subsidiary of the WSF charity, operating as an independent entity with a strong link between WSF and WSF MAT through the governance and executive structures.

Consultation on the Academy Proposal

We value your input and invite you to share any questions or views you may have regarding this proposed transition to Academy status. As such, we will be holding a consultation with our staff and families in April and May 2024 to share why we feel this is a positive move and give you more information about the process and implications of Academy status.

In the meantime we would encourage you to visit Clapham's website (<https://www.claphamterrace.info/>) where, under the 'Our School' tab, we have provided a list of Frequently Asked Questions, details of the Open Meetings, and a feedback form. We hope these documents will support any queries or comments.

What is the proposed timetable?

- **15th and 16th April 2024:** Stakeholder consultation with Clapham Terrace staff and families regarding the proposal to join WSF MAT. The consultation period will last for 6 weeks ending **4th June 2024**
- As part of this process, we will be holding open meetings at the school on **29th April** at **17.00** and **8th May** at **09.00**, where there will be the opportunity to hear more about the proposals and its benefits to the school, to ask questions and to give your feedback.
- Feedback from the formal consultation will then be considered by the school's Governing Body, and will contribute to the final school decision – this will be included as part of the MAT application submission to the DfE
- If the DfE agree to the proposals, the decision will be implemented to join WSF MAT with the intended opening date of 1st January 2025



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We look forward to discussing the plans for the school with you and working alongside our community to make sure that we safeguard the children's' outstanding and fulfilling education.

Yours sincerely



Julie Miles
Headteacher



Dan Johnston
Chair of Governors

