



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN SCHOOL

Achieving Excellence Together

Over the last year or so, we have been in discussions with a number of small Multi Academy Trusts considering how we can work together. A Multi Academy Trust (MAT) is a group of schools who formally link themselves together in order to share expertise and resources.

Throughout the process we have sought a partner which would enable Henley in Arden School to develop and improve whilst continuing to be the kind of school we want to be – a school that is small, friendly, caters for the widest possible range of abilities and is rigorous and relentless in its pursuit of academic excellence. We want to remain a school where staff are given a high degree of professional freedom to teach whilst, at the same time, enjoying the professional development opportunities and sharing of expertise that comes from being part of a bigger institution. We want to remain a school where the broad, inclusive curriculum we currently enjoy is retained and where financial security means that we won't have to compromise the range of subjects and extra-curricular activities because of budget constraints.

The decision reached by the governors last night enables us to have all of that: I'm delighted to announce that after much careful scrutiny and discussion, we have decided to enter a process of formal due diligence with the Arden Academy Trust as the MAT we wish to join. They have indicated that they very much want us to work with them – in fact, the CEO, Martin Murphy (who is also the Headteacher of Arden Academy) has confessed to "falling in love" with our school.

There will, I'm sure, be very many questions to answer in the coming days and weeks. Rest assured that this move is being driven entirely by us at Henley in Arden School; we come at this from a position of strength, both in terms of our financial position and the way the school is regarded by OFSTED. We are, therefore, very excited about this opportunity to benefit from a well-established successful institution whilst retaining all that we hold dear in Henley's school.

We have always valued the opinions of our parents and members of the local community so on Tuesday 1 May at 7:30 we will be holding an open meeting for all interested parties to discuss this exciting new venture.

If you have any further questions, hopefully the [FAQ document on our website](#) will have the answers. However, if your questions aren't answered there, please come along to the question and answer evening or get in touch with us in the usual way.

This is an exciting opportunity for the school and I've no doubt that our school will be enhanced as we continue to "achieve excellence together".

Mr S Jefferies
Headteacher