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THE THOMAS ADAMS SCHOOL, WEM

incorporating

ADAMS COLLEGE SIXTH FORM CENTRE

ADAMS HOUSE (BOARDING)

Headteacher: Mark Cooper BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher: Gavin Sterry BSc (Hons) MA



Dear Parent/Carer

8 April 2019

I would like to share with you an update from our Governing Body.

As with many schools, we have been contemplating our position with regard to becoming an academy and joining a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). With the diminishing role of the Local Authority alongside increased financial pressures and encouragement from the Department for Education in supporting schools to become Academies, we needed to look for a partner to enable us to share and receive best practice that will enhance our education provision. This is to enable our students to continue to receive high quality teaching and learning opportunities they all deserve.

As a result, Governors have been exploring a number of options and recently narrowed their focus on The Priory School Trust (<https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/>) with a view to Thomas Adams School becoming part of their MAT.

The ethos and vision of The Priory School Trust strongly align with those of our School – it is a charitable trust based at an outstanding school in Shrewsbury, with a determination for all students to not only succeed but also develop a real thirst for, and love of, learning. There are presently three schools in the Trust: The Priory School (11-16, Shrewsbury), St Martins School (3-16, St Martins, nr Oswestry) and Coleham School (4-11, Shrewsbury). The Priory School also leads a Teaching School Alliance, with whom a number of our staff have worked. There may be further interest in the Trust from other schools in Shropshire and this provides exciting prospects for Thomas Adams School to develop links and improve opportunities for all.

As part of our due diligence process we have spoken to schools already in the MAT, and the consistent message is that they are enjoying and benefitting from improved resources and learning opportunities without impacting on their own school's identity. Our responsibility to students, staff, parents/carers and the local community is of the highest priority, and we are extremely proud of our ethos and vision. To this end we are keen to ensure that we stay in control of the School's destiny and retain our own identity, whilst being part of a small, cohesive and mutually supportive group of schools.

There is most definitely a meeting of minds and we are confident that our proposals will mean we work with a Trust that will be in the best interests of Thomas Adams School. An Academy Order application has been submitted to the Department for Education, and once this has been granted we will be in a position to begin the formal consultation process, when we will actively seek the views of all stakeholders. We will invite you to attend a meeting where you can find out more about The Priory School Trust and how Thomas Adams School will become involved.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please do get in touch with use of the following dedicated email address: academyconversion@thomasadams.net

Yours faithfully

Jo Hickson
Chair of Governors

