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Dear Parent or Carer

NEXT STEPS FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR SCHOOL

Millthorpe has a good and growing reputation within York and has for some time been involved in working collaboratively with other schools in the City. An exciting opportunity has now arisen for three schools to work more closely together for the benefit of the local community of Southbank. This letter and the accompanying factsheet explain some of the background behind this interesting proposal.

We already have a strong partnership within the Southbank area and Millthorpe has been a core member of this local cluster of schools for many years. A possible next step is to formalise our partnership into a Multi-Academy Trust. This would mean Millthorpe becoming an Academy. Academies are publicly funded schools that are not controlled by the Local Authority. This gives them greater freedom and independence in a number of key areas. A Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) is a group of schools that convert to being Academies and join together as one entity, forming a legal partnership.

The schools that we are considering a partnership with are Knavesmire Primary and Scarcroft Primary. Each school would be an equal member of this partnership, retaining its own Headteacher and distinctive individual characteristics. The Senior Leaders of the three schools would, however, work more closely together.

The Governing Bodies at all three schools have made the decision to explore Academy conversion as part of a locally-based Multi-Academy Trust. They will now enter into a period of legal exploration, to ensure that there are no legal barriers to such a proposal. They will also enter into consultation with all stakeholders, beginning once the General Election is over. Gathering the views of parents and staff is a key aspect of this consultation process. Any decision as to whether or not to convert to Multi-Academy Trust status will be taken by the Governing Body, based on what is considered best for our school, our pupils, our staff and the wider community. I have attached a brief information sheet about the Multi-Academy Trust proposal.

The Headteachers and Governing Bodies of all three schools involved believe that this proposal is exciting and has a lot of potential to benefit all those involved. We look forward to hearing your views during the consultation, as we move towards making this important decision for the future.

Yours faithfully

Trevor Burton
Headteacher

Bob Sydes
Chair of Governors