

16 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We're writing to let you know of a potentially significant development in the life of the South Bank Multi Academy Trust, of which Millthorpe school is part. After careful consideration, the Trustees have decided to formally investigate the possibility of a merger with South York Multi Academy Trust.

South York MAT is comprised of five schools: Fulford secondary school; Escrick, Dunnington and Wheldrake with Thorganby primary schools; and Archbishop of York's Junior school. Our initial discussions have shown that both Trusts share similar values, a likeminded commitment to our communities, and a common vision of empowering our schools to deliver the best possible education. We believe that pooling our resources may allow us to improve the education we offer even more: through shared resources and expertise; greater economies of scale; broader opportunities for our staff; and – most importantly – collaborations that would make a positive difference to children's learning.

A merged Trust would offer provision for pupils from ages 3 to 18, serving almost 6000 students. After taking a preliminary look at the possibilities of a merger, Trustees from both Trusts have now decided to proceed to a more formal examination of the potential benefits

I'm sure you will have many questions about what this might involve, and how it could affect your child's education. In the coming weeks, we will provide more information about what the merger might entail, and run a full consultation so that you can put your questions and views to the Trust. We will also, conduct a full due diligence process to ensure that a merger would not in any way disadvantage the schools currently in our Trust. If the merger goes ahead, we will aim to complete it before the start of the next academic year in September 2021.

These are turbulent times for education. The issues we face are like nothing any of us have experienced before. In this environment, more than ever before, we believe that a combined Trust may offer us more resource and a stronger foundation to meet the challenges ahead.

We will, of course, keep you informed as this progresses.

Yours sincerely



Edwin Thomas
Chair of Trustees



Adam Cooper
Interim Trust Principal