

Tuesday April 16th 2024

Dear Exhall Grange Specialist School Stakeholders,

Re: Proposed conversion of Exhall Grange Specialist School to become an Academy as a founding member of the Warwick Schools Foundation Multi Academy Trust

I am writing to inform you of an exciting development for our school community. Exhall Grange Specialist School is proposing to join the Warwick Schools Foundation Multi Academy Trust (WSF MAT), a brand-new Academy Trust supported by the Warwick Schools Foundation (WSF). Exhall Grange Specialist School will be a founding member of the new Academy Trust, which will place special educational needs and inclusion, and academic and vocational excellence alongside a breadth and depth of educational opportunities at its core.

Currently, four schools, including Exhall Grange Specialist School, are proposing to join WSF MAT at its founding stage. The other schools are:

- Evergreen School (Special School)
- Westgate Primary School
- Clapham Terrace Primary School

About the Warwick Schools Foundation

WSF is an education charity which 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 operate as an independent entity with a strong link between WSF and WSF MAT through the governance and executive structures.

Their website is www.warwickschoolsfoundation.co.uk/wsf-mat

Benefits for Exhall Grange Specialist School in joining the WSF MAT

Exhall Grange Specialist School has already experienced benefits through our informal partnership with WSF, and we believe that our shared ethos and values make this proposed transition a natural progression in our commitment to providing the very best for our pupils. As a long-established charitable organisation, WSF has access to resources that as a local authority school we can only aspire to. Our pupils will be given opportunities to access educational, cultural, and social experiences that will be life enhancing. Although this proposal will see us move away from being a local authority (LA) maintained school, we will continue to have a close relationship with Warwickshire County Council as our school will be overseen by the LA from a pupil admissions and pupil funding perspective.

The primary purpose of WSF MAT will be to enable and support schools to continue serving their communities as effectively as possible. Importantly, WSF MAT will ensure schools protect their unique identity and provision, and provide opportunities for collaboration and sharing of services, which provides the all-important economies of scale that we cannot access as stand-alone schools. Working alongside our colleagues at Evergreen School will naturally, as specialist organisations, enable us to share expertise, skills, networks, continuing professional development (CPD) amongst many others, leading to enhanced best practice in both schools. By joining the WSF MAT, Exhall Grange Specialist School will become part of a larger family, where resources and expertise are shared for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Vision and Ethos

When we were introduced to WSF it was immediately apparent there was a common commitment to ensure all pupils reach their full potential. At Exhall Grange Specialist School all pupils and staff are encouraged to 'Be your best self' which encapsulates our core purpose and the WSF ethos resonates with this. Our vision is that all pupils thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. We strive to be an outstanding school that meets the complex needs of the pupils and communities we serve. The aim of the MAT will be to enable pupils 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. The WSF MAT has a vision to deliver improved social mobility and cohesion, where all pupils can share in life changing educational experiences whatever their ability or background. Our pupils are prepared for adult life, education and/or employment by developing the school values of respect; resilience; confidence; motivation; aspiration and integrity. These values are integral to school life. The proposed MAT and Exhall Grange Specialist School hold the development of these qualities central to all we do and as important as the academic and vocational curriculum.

This shared vision and ethos is at the heart of why we wish to be part of the WSF MAT.

Sharing good practice

Collaboration and partnership will facilitate support and sharing of good practice, interventions, and resources. This ultimately leads to improved outcomes and opportunities for all pupils.

Joining the WSF MAT will offer a broader range of professional development opportunities for staff. This will be done in a cohesive manner that will improve the well-being of all, as staff will feel supported in their own aspirations and job satisfaction. Our staff will transfer across to the WSF MAT, retaining our current terms and conditions.

Outstanding Education opportunities

Through a focus on learning academically, socially, and emotionally, inclusive practices, a sense of belonging to something bigger the WSF MAT will create an environment where all our pupils will have the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential. We believe the proposed WSF MAT will benefit our school and stakeholders and enhance the Warwickshire and neighbouring counties educational provision.

The enriched curriculum is essential for the holistic well-being and personal development of pupils. As part of the MAT, our Sport, Music, and Arts offer will improve with access to outstanding facilities and experiences and a wider range of specialist teachers.

Governance

Joint decision making and strategic planning is a key factor in collectively shaping the direction of the MAT and the collaborative Governance model will assist stakeholders to have their views and ideas heard reinforcing a sense of belonging.

Governance will be enhanced by the sharing of best practice as well as in the strategic guidance and oversight of schools.

Centralised Services offer financial stability and enable the school to access further resources and support facilities.

We firmly believe that becoming a part of WSF MAT will improve our ability to provide exceptional educational experiences for our pupils while maintaining the unique identity and ethos of Exhall Grange Specialist School.

Consultation on the Academy Proposal

We value your input and invite you to share any questions or concerns you may have regarding this proposed transition to Academy status. We will be holding a consultation with our stakeholders in April 2024 to share why we believe this is a positive move, give you more information about the process and the implications of Academy status, and get your feedback as we move forward with this decision. Attached to this letter is a list of general Frequently asked questions(FAQs); we hope this document will support any queries or comments.

What is the proposed timetable?

- **16th April 2024:** Stakeholder consultation 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 a face-to-face meeting at the school on **Wednesday 24th April at 3.45pm** and **Tuesday 30th April at 6pm**, when there will be the opportunity to hear about the proposals and its benefits to the school, ask questions and listen to your views. Please fill in the form in the next bullet point if you plan to attend one of these sessions.
- Feedback from the formal consultation will be considered by the Full Governing Board, and will contribute to the final school decision – this will be included as part of the MAT application submission to the DfE – please provide your feedback by filling in this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/Wn5A9572CA>
- 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

We encourage you to visit our website www.exhallgrange.co.uk where you will find a link in Home - MAT, to the consultation paperwork.

Our Governors and I look forward to discussing these plans for the school with you. It is always vital that our school works with you to provide the optimum educational experience for your child to lay a sure foundation for their future.

Yours sincerely



Headteacher



Chair of Governors

