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Brandesburton Primary School
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Dear Parents/Carers

As you may know, in common with many East Riding schools, Brandesburton Primary School is supported by the local authority (the LA). The LA support us financially to run the school and services that we buy back from the LA to support our day to day operation.

The Governing Body at the school supports the Headteacher and her team with a strategic vision for the school and we are writing to you today to outline some changes we have been considering to our school business model. These are changes that we would welcome your input into.

Background:

In March 2022, a Government White Paper announced that by the end of the decade, all children will benefit from being taught in a school in, or in the process of joining, a strong multi-academy trust. Although the White Paper was retracted, the Governing Body, head teacher and staff had started an investigation and discussion about the future of Brandesburton Primary School, and that information gathering continued.

Where are we now?

From summer 2022, staff and the Governing Body have been working hard to investigate the options for our school and we are now able to share where this 'due diligence' has taken us. As part of the process and due diligence, we are consulting with you, our parents and all local community partners to determine whether the school should proceed with what we feel would be the best direction for the school. After a thorough consultation process internally, we believe that moving from our existing LA support model to one that involves being part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) will offer considerable benefits and advantages to the school going forward. The highly regarded Multi Academy Trust 'HCAT' has been selected as the trust to support Brandesburton Primary School. We've chosen to do so because we believe that this is the best model to deliver the very best education and support to both pupils and staff at the school.

What is an academy trust ?

Academy and multi-academy trusts are education charities that run schools to give children a better future. An academy school in England is a state-funded school which is directly funded by the Department for Education and independent of local authority control.

Who are Hull Collaborative Academy Trust ("HCAT")?

HCAT are based within the boundaries of Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire and North Yorkshire and the organisation has 16 schools as part of its group

We have investigated the financial support that they offer and we have looked at the resources we can tap into that would improve outcomes for all our pupils and support for our staff. We have talked to HCAT about the opportunities for families and children and discussed at length the school improvement capabilities evidenced across all schools within the trust.

As part of the HCAT group, Brandesburton Primary School would keep its autonomy and identity. Staff would transfer over to the new organisation. Brandesburton Primary School would access superb resources, support and up to date guidance which would in turn lead to outstanding impact. The Trust has been one of the top ten performing multi academy trusts for progress in Reading, Writing and Mathematics in KS2 for the last three years. It was recently benchmarked as the only northern Multi Academy Trust in DFE rankings across Local Authorities and MATs by EPI (Education Policy institute). What this means to us as a school is HCAT will allow us to remain Brandesburton but offer us an outstanding level of support and resources to deliver the very best quality of education.



Members of the staff team have visited HCAT schools to see their teaching in operation. Those members of our team on those visits have returned to Brandesburton with very positive feedback from their visits.

Governors, teachers, staff and all stakeholders are all striving to give the children an outstanding quality of education whilst ensuring staff well-being is always also a priority. The school is the heart of the community and this is an evaluation which has been taken very seriously with time, care and considerable thought to ensure that ultimately, we can sustain improvements and continue to drive to be the very best we can be in every aspect for every child at our school.

What does this mean for my child?

HCAT is a family of schools which support one another to give the best for every child and every family. Children at Brandesburton will receive more opportunities to join in a range of events: choir performances, children council meetings, well-being groups, sport performances - the trust have mini buses which would help us hugely with the recent increase in costs and our limited funds to spend on travel.

The trust has leaders of education (in every subject) who actively work in HCAT schools and who have made huge impacts across the varying schools they have worked in. For us, this would mean our children would receive the very best provision in all areas of the curriculum because our staff would have the superb support and resources.

School improvement is focussed and measured to ensure maximum impact on children. This means the leadership of the school will be supported to continue on our journey for outstanding. We all want exactly this for our children.

For HCAT their ethos is exactly the same as ours, children first. Children are at the heart of all they do.

What happens now?

At this stage we are still not committing the school to 'conversion' as it is known - to become part of the HCAT family. We are consulting with everyone associated with our school before Governors meet again to make a final decision. Indeed, any final decision needs to be ratified by the Department for Education before any transfer takes place. You are an important part of that consultation process and we would value your input.

There will be an open meeting on 25th of April at 5pm for you to come and hear more about HCAT and raise any queries or comments.

OR

If you are unable to make this meeting but would like to ask any questions, or make any comments, please email brands@eastriding.gov.uk by 4pm on 29th April 2023 after which date consultations will close. The Governors will meet after this date to consider how to proceed.

We look forward to hearing from you and we assure you of our continued diligence, care and attention in this matter.

Kind regards,
The Governing Body and Headteacher

Yours sincerely

L Northen

Miss Northen
Headteacher