



Sir Thomas Boughey High School



Station Road Halmer End Stoke on Trent Staffordshire ST7 8AP Tel: 01782 729400

CONSULTATION

Should Sir Thomas Boughey High School convert to become an academy and join United Endeavour Trust?

In April last year we began consultation and work to become an academy and joint partner in a local co-operative academy trust. Our initial application to set up this trust had not been successfully brought to fruition and, in addition, other changes in leadership of the school and its Governing Body have led us to consider that an alternative arrangement would be of greater benefit to our school and our students. Our Ofsted report of February 2017 recognised much that is great about our school, including attainment which is above national averages, but it also recommended a number of areas of improvement. The leadership of the school and its Governors are unanimously agreed that we will be in a better position to make the swift and significant improvements required if we work in partnership with other schools with the support of a multi academy trust.

We have carefully considered a number of possible trusts and believe that United Endeavor Trust is the best fit and potentially most beneficial for our school. UET are a local trust working with two other secondary schools in Newcastle Under Lyme (Clayton Hall Academy and Newcastle Academy). They are a small trust hoping to work with other local schools to build a strong learning community in our area. Their vision and priorities closely match those of our school and, having experienced direct working with them in recent weeks, we are convinced that they have much to offer but that they also recognize what our school can offer the trust. For more information about UET please visit their website at www.uetrust.org

Why join UET MAT?

Our Governors and the Directors of UET MAT believe that a strong sense of moral purpose and an aspiration to improve the quality of teaching and learning are key drivers for adopting a MAT model. Being a MAT has enabled UET to build on existing partnerships, work collaboratively and support schools to improve attainment. The MAT model has also allowed them to capitalise on the benefits of this approach, including:

- sharing best practice
- economic benefits, such as centralised services
- the ability to focus funds where they are most needed
- increased and flexible staffing resources
- the opportunity to establish succession planning programmes and, in doing so, retain good staff who might otherwise move on.

The UET model has enabled academies to remain local but also to grow and expand, and support a wider network of schools. Equally, the UET model offers a school the potential to retain its unique characteristics and maintain its own local governing body; it also offers headteachers a high degree of autonomy in leading their schools, whilst giving them the freedom to focus on teaching and learning. The Chief Executive Officer and Trust Director have significant experience and expertise in school improvement and core service operation. This support structure, time and expertise has already made a significant difference to principals and chairs of the local governing bodies in existing trust academies by allowing them to maintain a strong focus on teaching and learning.

Additional benefits of being part of a UET, include:

- high-quality staff development
- enrichment opportunities for students
- investment in school facilities
- Improved core service provision and cost savings through collaboration and better contracting
- greater community involvement
- a clearer identity and focus
- a stronger focus on teaching and learning
- a stronger focus on data and pupil attainment
- more effective leadership and governance.

What will change?

Our school name will change to Sir Thomas Boughy Academy – signaling a new start in our approach to school improvement and an improved offer for our students.

Our school badge will be modernized and designed to compliment the academy badges of our new family of academies – we will also display the badge of United Endeavour Trust in a number of places to show our pride in being a member of the trust.

Our uniform will have some minor changes to display changed badges and smarten up some aspects of our appearance – such as the length and types of skirts allowed and the type and fit of some trousers.

Our school leaders and Governors will be directly accountable to the trust rather than the Local Authority. The trust are accountable directly to the Department for Education.

What will not change?

We will continue to be governed by our own Local Governing Body and lead by our own Principal, Mrs Hingley.

Our admission arrangements will be unchanged and we will continue to work with Staffordshire County Council to admit to the same criteria used by other local schools.

Ofsted will continue to inspect the school.

We will continue to employ staff under national pay and conditions and to teacher and local government pension schemes.

We would continue to work with local partners, schools, Staffordshire County Council and parents.

How can I find out more and make my views known?

Our consultation runs from Tuesday 28th February to Tuesday 28th March 2017.

There will be a meeting for staff to attend on Monday 6th March 2017 where school staff can meet senior staff from UET and ask any questions they may have.

There will also be an open meeting for parents and other interested parties at 6pm on Thursday 9th March at Sir Thomas Boughy High School, where senior staff, governors and representatives from UET will be present to take questions and provide further information on the proposed conversion.

Students will be consulted through their school council.

To provide us with your feedback please complete the attached form and return it to the school.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs J Hingley

Head teacher



Mrs K Beeston

Chair of Governors