



Tuesday 23 July 2019

Dear Staff, Parents and Carers

### Chiltern Educational Trust

Following our communications dated 5 July, and as we break for summer holidays, we considered it appropriate to share further progress with you around some key questions that have been raised as follows:

#### 1. Will the Chiltern Educational Trust go ahead without Ashlyns?

Ashlyns' decision means that the formation of the Chiltern Educational Trust cannot proceed as it had been planned. However, in a bid to maximise the considerable work that has been undertaken over the past 3 years, we are delighted to have the ongoing support of the existing Project Manager, the CEO Designate and the outstanding group of men and women who had been selected as Trustees and given hours of work as Trustee Designates in preparing for the Trust. Those individuals have all offered to work with us, on a voluntary basis, and we are sure that parents will understand the importance of us now accepting their generosity and taking the time necessary to reflect and consider our positions properly. There will be no change to the day-to-day experience of children and families at our school in the coming months and we remain committed to collaborative working between local schools for the benefit of all children in the town.

#### 2. Why has Ashlyns withdrawn from the academisation process?

We asked Ashlyns to provide a written statement of their reasons for us to share with parents and carers. While every school was entitled to take a decision to withdraw from the process right up until the day of conversion and while Ashlyns says that it has given the matter careful consideration, it is disappointing to note that they have declined to share their detailed reasons; their Chair of Governors has indicated that *"A number of factors contributed to this decision but we do not consider it useful or constructive to go into the details."*

#### 3. Will there be a cost impact to the school?

We do not anticipate that any of the costs of this process will need to be met from our school's annual budget and will be working hard with others to ensure that this is the case.

Kind regards

Katharine Ellwood  
Headteacher

Elizabeth O'Reilly  
Chair of Governors

