



Diversa
multi academy trust

Monday 20th May 2019

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

As you will be aware from previous correspondence, Diversa has been in discussion with other Multi Academy Trusts to explore opportunities for beneficial collaboration. We apologise that confirmation of an agreement was published in the media prior to this letter being circulated. Problems in co-ordinating the communications across the schools meant that letters from Bignold and ourselves were delayed until today.

Strategic Partnership with Evolution Academy Trust

Trustees are pleased to announce that Diversa and Evolution Academy Trusts have agreed a strategic partnership to work together over the coming months to pool their expertise and steer both Trusts in a similar direction for education improvement for their schools and children. Like Diversa, Evolution is dedicated to primary education and has a mixture of Infant, Junior and all through Primary Schools, five of which are in Norwich, one near Great Yarmouth, and with a hub of four schools in Lowestoft area.

The Diversa-Evolution Strategic Partnership will see Lynsey Holzer, the CEO of Evolution becoming the Interim CEO of Diversa taking over the responsibilities vacated by Clare Jones from 1st September 2019. Lynsey has significant experience as a Head Teacher and more recently as a CEO and has been instrumental in supporting struggling schools to increase educational performance but also create safe and exciting learning environments for children. Lynsey will also lead the permanent recruitment process to replace Chris Read at the two Angel Road Schools, and further develop our exciting early years developments on the Angel Road Infant School site. Lynsey will also support Chris Newman in the continued development of attainment at Bignold Primary.

The partnership will be led by a Partnership Board with Trustees from both Diversa and Evolution. This Partnership Board will support the two organisations in creating commonality within its processes to drive improved achievement, whilst looking at economies of scale. In this extremely difficult financial climate, the two Trusts will work together to understand how the buying power of more schools can drive down non pay costs and will also look to streamline activities that are duplicated in both organisations to create financial efficiencies.

Diversa Trustees and Head Teachers chose to work with Evolution following an in depth and formal interview process of three multi academy trusts who had a shared ethos of ensuring that all children, whatever their background and capability should be supported to meet their full potential. Evolution also demonstrated a significant track record of school improvement and could clearly prove that they shared Diversa's core values of equality, diversity and transparency.

Both Diversa and Evolution are working with the Department for Education and the Regional Schools Commissioner's (RSC) office to understand how legally we can formalise this partnership. We have had wholehearted support from the RSC who have welcomed this joint working relationship.

The leadership teams of our schools and Trustees see this partnership as an exciting opportunity to pool ideas and share best practice across primary and early years education in all 13 schools.

A meeting with parents and carers will take place at Bignold School on Monday 3rd June at 2.45 and at Angel Road on Tuesday 4th June at 2.30 (Junior School Hall). The Chair or Vice-Chair of Trustees, along with Lynsey Holzer and the Heads will be available to discuss this new venture.

Alicia Howell
Chair of Trustees

Adrian Matthews
Vice Chair of Trustees