



EXCALIBUR PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Ivy Lane, Alsager, Stoke on Trent, ST7 2RQ  
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28<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you with details of a proposal for The Berkeley Academy in Wistaston to join Chancery Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).

The Berkeley converted to a MAT on its own a few years ago and since this time their governing body have taken great care to explore all possible options to ensure that the children at The Berkeley are placed in the strongest position for the future.

When they converted, they academised as a Multi Academy Trust, with only the one school within the trust, with an expectation and legal accountability for the MAT to grow, or merge, within an identified timescale.

The government have made it clear that they wish for all academies to be part of a group of schools that can share ideas and good practice, improve pupil outcomes and meet the challenges ahead. The reality is that stand-alone schools are likely to become increasingly isolated and vulnerable. Over the last 18 months, the governing body at The Berkeley Academy have been exploring options by meeting and speaking to a number of locally based MATs and considering their vision, ethos and structure. After considering various options, they are now keen to join Chancery MAT.

Their Governing Body favours our trust as it shares our belief in the importance of every child achieving and thriving. The opportunity for The Berkeley joining our Trust presents many advantages for all, including strengthening the partnership that already exists with our schools and working between schools in close geographical proximity and similar contexts.

This formal partnership (MAT) would be built on the strong foundations of a successful, informal arrangement which has been established between the schools (Excalibur, Pikemere and The Berkeley). Each school would retain much of its independence whilst benefiting from being part of the Trust. There would also be more opportunities for the pupils and staff to work together across the three schools, sharing good practice and delivering an outstanding learning experience. Schools would both support and challenge each other to deliver excellence in all aspects of the education of our pupils. All schools within this partnership would also continue to maintain and develop their strong links with other local schools. In the future, other schools may wish to join Chancery MAT.



Chancery Multi Academy Trust t/a Excalibur Primary School. Registered in England and Wales. Registration Number 11024808

Registered Office: Excalibur Primary School, Ivy Lane, Alsager, Cheshire, ST7 2RQ



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The Trust's priority is to enable all our schools to continue to provide an excellent education for our students, whilst protecting each school's ethos and identity, and retaining its individual qualities and strengths. Working together, with other local schools in a Multi Academy Trust offers many benefits for our students, staff, the school and wider community.

We believe that The Berkeley becoming part of Chancery MAT, that has a culture of collaboration, will result in the best outcomes for all our children and will build on the current individual strengths within the individual schools. All the schools are committed to, and have a proven track record of, rigorous school improvement where headteachers and other leaders work together to share best practice and learn from one another as well as from other external networks and partnerships.

Following the completion of a robust due diligence process, the directors have agreed in principle for The Berkeley to join Chancery MAT with a view to the formal consultation process. The consultation is open to all, including parents, pupils, staff and the wider community. Please let us know your views by emailing [admin@excalibur.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@excalibur.cheshire.sch.uk) by 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and title your email The Berkeley/Chancery consultation. Your views are important and we want to answer any questions you may have.

We do not envisage that The Berkeley joining our MAT would bring about a significant change to the day to day running of our schools. The strength of our schools and that of our partners, means we are confident that we have the vision, skills and resources to serve the best interests of our community and to continue to shape our own destiny.

Yours Faithfully,

Lise Houldsworth  
Headteacher

