

The Isle of Wight Education Federation has announced it will be consulting on merging its schools (Carisbrooke College and Medina College inc The Island VI Form) with a Hampshire based academy trust. HISP MAT (Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Southampton and Portsmouth) consists of Thornden School in Chandler's Ford and two Southampton-based primary schools: Portswood and Tanner's Brook. There are also another two Secondary schools in Hampshire currently consulting about joining HISP MAT too.

During the past 12 months Governors decided to explore ways to further secure the education offer that children have available to them through the Isle of Wight Education Federation schools. It was after careful consideration and analysis of many potential future pathways that HISP MAT was selected as the best route and fit.

HISP MAT provide the perfect balance of having a highly regarded region-wide school improvement network, providing high quality staff development opportunities through their learning hubs, whilst supporting and encouraging the schools in their learning community to maintain their own curriculum and identity. HISP MAT's vision and ethos is very closely aligned with that of the Federation.

Executive Headteacher of The Isle of Wight Education Federation, Matthew Parr-Burman, has said 'We have come a very long way over the past four and a half years and are increasingly proud of the schools we have become and are developing into. We continue to focus on the delivery of education in the classroom and the wider experiences available can be even more dynamic and secure by joining with HISP MAT. The day to day operational leadership and staffing structures will remain unchanged. This new relationship creates exciting long term strategic stability in an increasingly challenging national education landscape'.

Su Whelan, Chief Executive officer of HISP MAT has explained said 'I am really excited about the plans for IWEF to become part of HISP Multi Academy Trust. We share a similar outlook on education and believe that all children and young people deserve great opportunities within and from their schools. There are longstanding and trusted links between IWEF and HISP and as this partnership develops this will lead to great opportunities for staff, students and the communities that our schools work within'.

Academy schools are state-funded schools with higher degrees of autonomy in governance, use of resources and curriculum. They receive funding directly from the DfE, as opposed to a local authority, and are run by an academy trust. They must follow the same rules on admissions, special educational needs and exclusions as other maintained schools and students sit the same exams. Academies are also inspected by Ofsted.

The consultation will run until between 9.00am on Tuesday, 14 June and 3.30pm Friday, 15 July. Details can be found on the Isle of Wight Education Federation's website.