

14 June 2022

Dear parent/carers,

### School Strategy and future development

As many of you will be aware, the federation between Carisbrooke and Medina College (inc the VI Form) under the Island Innovation Trust was formed in 2011, when the school structure on the Isle of Wight changed from three tier to two tier. We, as a federation have been on a journey to improve the outcomes and opportunities for all students who join our learning community during this time.

Since I joined in January 2018, we have continued to move this forward, in some areas with urgency and at pace; and in some areas putting systems and procedures in place which need time to embed to become habitual. As you will be well aware, high expectations is one of my consistent messages. We should have high expectations for ourselves, each other and the Island learning community as a whole.

We are well on the path to being Good schools and have all of the elements in place. But we need to continue to focus on being the best we can possibly be for our students, your children.

With these things in mind, we have spent the last year carefully scrutinising all of the possible future options for the federation, from remaining as the group of schools that we are, to expanding in one of many ways through a strategic partnership.

In making this important decision the key objective for the Governors has been to ensure the best possible future for our students, staff and the schools. We also consider it essential that we maintain our own identity and do not become a school that is just one of dozens in a large multi academy chain.

Taking these points, and many, many more into account, we have taken the decision to consult on joining a Multi Academy Trust based in Hampshire. The Trust is called 'HISP MAT'. Standing for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Southampton and Portsmouth. It currently consists of Thornden School, a very high performing secondary school in Chandlers Ford, and two Southampton based primary schools, Portswood and Tanner's Brook. The MAT is on the journey to growing even more with an 11-19 school in Christchurch and an 11 - 16 school in Stockbridge. We will add another aspect to this, by being the 'Isle of Wight' element of the MAT.

HISP also runs an impressive school improvement partnership supporting hundreds of schools in the region, which we will become key participants in. We will be:

- developing a creative partnership with other secondary schools, one of which is a national 'Research School' backed by the Education Endowment Fund <https://www.thornden.hants.sch.uk/>
- enabling our staff to be both recipients of and delivery partners for HISP's extensive and highly regarded region-wide school improvement programmes and teacher training, called its 'Learning Partnership', which is based around two Teaching School Hubs serving the geographical area described in the Trust's name – for example the Science Learning Partnership or Solent Maths Hub. <https://www.hispteachingschoolhub.org/>

One of the most important elements when looking at whether a MAT is suitable is the ethos, vision and values that both they and we hold. HISP MAT shares our values and ethos and is keen to protect and promote the best interests of The Isle of Wight Education Federation, locally and nationally whilst being fully committed to, and respectful of, our special identity and place in our community <https://www.hispmat.org/>

Partnering with HISP will bring investment in staff training and development, external challenge and support for our aspiration to continuously improve the student experience at all Isle of Wight Education schools, as well as new programmes for both staff and students to engage in.

We understand that there may be mixed feelings regarding this, but please be assured that we have the students' best interests as our key focus. We also understand that there will be many questions, so please find a [link here](#) to a Frequently Asked Questions document which may answer some of these, which can also be found on our website.

The consultation will run until between 9.00am on Tuesday, 14 June and 3.30pm Friday, 15 July. If anyone wishes to make a representation then please complete [this form](#).

We would like to invite you to meet colleagues from HISP, with our own leadership staff, to learn more about our merger with them and ask questions at a specially arranged evening here in school at Medina College on Tuesday, 5 July at 6pm in the Theatre. If you plan to attend, please complete the following [form](#).



Matthew Parr-Burman  
Executive Headteacher  
Isle of Wight Education Federation