

14 June 2022

Dear parent/carers,

I am writing to you with important information about The Isle of Wight Education Federation schools. These consist of Carisbrooke College, Medina College and The Island VI Form.

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. We are well on the path to being Good schools and have all of the elements in place. As you may be 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.

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.

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 on Friday, 15 July. If anyone wishes to make a representation then please complete [this form](#).

We will be offering the opportunity for you to talk to members of the Leadership Team about this as the Transition Evening which you have coming up.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Parr-Burman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Parr-Burman
Executive Headteacher
Isle of Wight Education Federation