

13 July 2018

Dear EAST staff members and parents/carers

As promised, I am now in a position to share more information about the proposal to join with another multi-academy trust (MAT).

As you are aware, we have been looking to grow as a Trust since our formation in 2013, but have been limited by our size and at this juncture, the EAST directors have come to the decision that it is in the best interests of the whole EAST (East Anglia Schools Trust) community – pupils, staff, parents and carers of Cliff Park Infant and Cliff Park Junior schools to join a larger MAT, Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT).

We feel that this will allow us to secure our future success, by giving us access to a wide range of support and Trust-wide initiatives offering exciting new opportunities for development, learning and enrichment.

I am delighted to let you know that approval has been granted for our two schools, currently part of the EAST, to join OAT later this year.

OAT is a not-for-profit MAT that has been sponsoring academies since 2009, and now has 36 primary and secondary academies across the country, including a number of successful schools in the Great Yarmouth area.

EAST shares the same ethos and values as OAT and the vision that all young people should have the highest academic, social and practical skills to enable them to fulfil their potential. Our shared commitment to raising our pupils' aspirations, broadening their horizons and providing them with the best possible education to succeed, makes OAT an excellent fit for both schools.

We are excited about the prospect and the opportunities presented by joining such an experienced MAT, with a strong local presence in Gorleston and throughout its Eastern regional hub – managed by a dedicated Regional Director.

Please rest assured that we will ensure that there are plenty of opportunities for staff, students and their families, and other stakeholders to engage and input into the process and to find out more about OAT and our plans.

We will be launching a consultation on the proposal to join OAT. This will run from 10 September to 5 October 2018, and I would urge you to share your thoughts and ideas and feed into this process. We shall also be holding meetings for parents on 11 September from 2:30pm–3:15pm and from 6:00pm–6:45pm. The link to the consultation site will be added to the EAST website www.east.school. Please check here regularly for updates.

Thank you to everyone involved in our EAST community for your continued support, we are excited about this opportunity and confident it will benefit everyone – so let's look forward to a wonderful future together.

If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am coming into school every Monday at 1:30pm during the consultation process if you would like to have a chat.

Claire Blamey

Chair, EAST Directors

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