



Ringwood School

21 September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Collaborative Working Between Local Schools

There is a well-established partnership of secondary schools across The New Forest, with regular meetings where school leaders share strategy and best practice. This alliance has become stronger and more collaborative in recent years, which has led the schools within it to explore the opportunities and benefits provided by more formal arrangements of partnership.

You may be aware of the government's recent Schools White Paper, 'Opportunity for all: Strong schools with great teachers for your child'. One of the proposals is that by 2030, all children will benefit from being taught in a family of schools, with their school in a strong multi academy trust (MAT) or with plans to join or form one. Consequently, local school leaders are exploring options for closer working relationships because there is a clear intent that by 2030 there will be an education system led fully by multi academy trusts. At Ringwood School we are keen to be a part of these discussions at an early stage as schools across our area begin to explore and form partnerships, with a view to determining their own future as we see the growth of strong trusts and the establishment of new ones.

Priestlands School, Ringwood School, The Burgate School and Sixth Form, The Arnewood School and Eaglewood School are exploring the possibility of forming a new MAT serving the south-west of the New Forest, within close commuting distance. The schools have a long history of collaboration and, noting the opportunities presented by the White Paper, are looking at how they can build stronger provision for the children within their local communities.

I will continue to keep you informed of any further developments and opportunities for parent consultation.

Yours sincerely

Leanne Symonds
Headteacher