



20th December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

The attached letter, from the Department for Education (DfE), is to provide you with an update on the academisation of our school. It is to inform us that the University Schools Trust (UST) is no longer in a position to sponsor the school. The DfE hopes to tell us who the new sponsor will be by half term in February. If I have any updates prior to this, I will of course let you know.

UST have written a letter to you which I will send out shortly, explaining their reasons for this withdrawal and to express their sadness at having had to make this decision. They feel that, having undertaken considerable due diligence, their resources as a small trust are insufficient to support the school at this time.

Also announced today by the DfE is their decision to reconstitute our governing body as an Interim Executive Board (IEB). This expert group of five people will be working with me from January until the point of conversion, and together we will continue to put in place the necessary changes to secure improvement at the school. Three members have considerable experience as Headteachers and will provide a strong educational steer for the leadership of the school. I am pleased that David Skinner - the current Chair of Governors and a parent of the school - has also been asked to be on the IEB and will be able to provide continuity at this time of change, as well as bringing the local perspective to meetings and decision-making.

The vast experience and expertise that the IEB possess will increase our ability to deliver the school improvement plan that I outlined to you following Ofsted's visit earlier in the year. As ever, my primary focus will be on the delivery of this plan, and the extra support from the IEB will allow us to fast-track this, so that every student experiences a high quality education.

The information I will be sending out later this afternoon will provide you with further clarification of the situation. I'm sure, however, that you will have many questions to ask. I will work with Steve Belk, the Chair of the new IEB, in the New Year to arrange an opportunity for you to find out more about the IEB and the process of academisation.

I would also like to share with you that I have had reassurances that The John Roan Foundation, a very important part of the school, will be involved with the academisation process through regular consultations with the DfE.

To summarise:

- UST have withdrawn as our sponsor
- The DfE will find a new sponsor with the resources and expertise required as quickly as possible and hope to have done this by February half term
- The Academy Order remains in place and the academisation of the John Roan School will still happen

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- The governing body are to be replaced by an IEB
- The IEB will be a strong leadership group and will provide support to me and to the school
- The IEB will stabilise the school and support me with the improvements needed
- The IEB will facilitate the transfer to a new academy sponsor

Yours faithfully,



Cath Smith
Executive Headteacher