



Bay House

School & Sixth Form

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Dear Parent/Carer

We are delighted to announce that Bay House Academy is to join a Multi Academy Trust, to be known as Gosport and Fareham Multi Academy Trust (GFM), as it aims to provide young people in the local area with the best opportunities in education.

For many years Bay House has striven for closer collaborative working between local educational institutions and recognised the benefits that exist in cooperating with other schools and colleges. This is a wonderful opportunity to provide wider benefits for pupils and staff embracing and helping to preserve the collective endeavour that has been at the heart of the educational enrichment of Bay House pupils and staff alike.

We converted to become an Academy in 2011 and subsequently supported Lord Wilson Special School to become 'LWS Academy' in 2014. Following the recent decision of the Governing Body at Gomer Junior School to convert to Academy status, in-line with the legal status of Bay House and LWS Academy, it became possible for these three schools to form a MAT.

As a result of the recent inspection at Brune Park it became a legislative requirement for them to become an Academy. Without the existence of the GFM as a 'local solution', Brune Park would have to join a MAT with a chain of schools potentially spread across a large part of the country, and most certainly a geographical area considerably less local than Gosport. We do not believe that this would be in the best interests of the young people of our town. Brune Park joining the GFM will enable collaboration at a local level with the aim that every learner in Gosport receives a first rate education.

Bay House's last inspection report recognised it as "an increasingly successful school" and rated the leadership as outstanding for the third successive inspection. Indeed, parents and carers may be aware that under the government's new way of measuring school performance, which calculates the progress made by every student in their best 8 GCSE subjects, Bay House outperformed any other school in Hampshire this year; in addition, achievement in the Sixth Form continues to be outstanding in all national comparisons.

We evaluate that, in part, the reason for this success is the efforts the school makes to be outward facing; we ensure that we are collaborating with others and learning about best practice in order to bring this about. The governors are proud of the work Bay House has done supporting other schools, such as two on the Isle of Wight and also taking part in improvement activities in our local system of schools. We have worked with the Local Authority on the Gosport Education Improvement Partnership (GEIP), which encourages all



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schools, particularly those in the Primary phase of schooling, to work together to raise standards for all young people in the town.

If you have children in our feeder schools you will probably be aware of the Foundations for Learning (FFL) initiative developed by the Bay House cluster of schools. This is an example of how schools working collectively can develop innovative approaches to teaching and learning. Indeed, Bay House has a good reputation for its research and practice in education, being invited to present at conferences throughout the world. This has included sharing our learning about professional development, closing the achievement gap for disadvantaged learners and also work we have been engaged in with Gomer Junior School promoting the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) agenda in schools.

The governors of Bay House are therefore proud to be able to play our part in supporting education provision locally here in Gosport. We trust parents, carers and the community of Bay House will commend our decision and support us in our continued endeavours to do our best for all our children. Please be assured that this will not change our commitment towards the continued high quality of education at Bay House School and its Sixth Form.

I appreciate that to provide further detail will lengthen still further an already lengthy communication. Hence, if you have questions and/or would like to find out more about this important strategic development in Gosport, you will be invited to a meeting in the Main Hall at Bay House which will be arranged shortly.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact us via the email address MAT@bayhouse.hants.sch.uk
Any questions sent via this email will be addressed at the meeting as well as answered online.

Thanking you for giving this communication your attention.

Yours sincerely

Jean Morgan

Chair of Governors (Bay House School) and Designate Trustee of the GFM Board of Trustees