



Highfields School

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Dear Highfields Staff & Families

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As promised we are giving regular updates regarding governors' proposal to join EMET, a trust of schools. Recently, we discussed this as part of a scheduled full governing board meeting and governors decided that, given the current circumstances, it was not yet appropriate to proceed to formal consultation.

However, governors do feel that Covid, along with the challenges it has presented for schools is, in itself, a strong reason for this proposal for Highfields to join a supportive and strong group of schools to stay 'on the table'. Since the Peak 11 network of schools disbanded, Highfields has found itself increasingly exposed and isolated and governors are keen that this is not allowed to continue indefinitely, especially given the continued range of unprecedented challenges that the pandemic has presented to school leaders.

For this reason, governors will again consider formal consultation at their next full governing board meeting on 25 March 2021 and will update you after that meeting. In the meantime, we are involved in making some preliminary investigations into this move in case any legal issues are uncovered which might cause us to reconsider this proposal.

We are very keen to share information about EMET and so we invite you to look at this webpage (<https://www.highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk/our-school/better-future/>) which includes a short video which we hope explains why we feel so strongly that this proposal should be considered.

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect governors' appreciation for the fantastic partnerships between school and families which have been enhanced as a result of remote education. Although we are always looking to improve, your positive feedback suggests that in many cases our children continue to learn well despite all the challenges we face together.

I hope that half term is peaceful and happy for you and that this situation continues to improve as we head into spring.

Yours sincerely

Angeline Ellson
Chair of Governors
On behalf of the Full Governing Board

This is a good school. Ofsted, May 2017
A good school with an outstanding Sixth Form. Ofsted, October 2012

