



Highfields School

Headteacher: Mr A Marsh



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Dear Highfields Staff & Families

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I promised in my letter dated 10 February that I would give 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 continue to feel very strongly 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, and will continue to present, to school leaders.

For this reason, governors will again consider formal consultation at their next full governing board meeting on 29 April and will update you after that meeting. In the meantime, we continue to make 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 about our proposal. If you have questions or queries do let us know and we will update our FAQs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the school community for the way in which students have resumed their schooling over the last few weeks. Governors are enormously proud of the collaboration and cooperation between families, staff and local residents which has seen students return to school in a safe and orderly way.

I hope that the Easter holiday is peaceful and happy for you and that this situation continues to improve as we head further 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

