



Highfields School

Headteacher: Mr A Marsh



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Dear Highfields Staff & Families

I promised in my letter of 31 March that I would give regular updates regarding governors' proposal to join EMET, a trust of schools. Recently, we discussed this as part of a full governing board meeting and governors decided that, given the current circumstances, it was **not yet appropriate to proceed to formal consultation**. Governors are keen to respond to some stakeholders' requests that face to face meetings be involved in formal consultation and these are not yet possible.

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 staff.

For this reason governors will again consider formal consultation at a meeting on 7 June. At this time we will evaluate the situation regarding Covid and will decide whether to press ahead with formal consultation or to delay until next academic year.

This delay since September 2020 has been frustrating for governors but we are pleased, at least, that it has given plenty of time for stakeholders to ask questions and to explore the information available on our webpage (<https://www.highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk/our-school/better-future/>). If you have questions or queries do let us know and we will update our FAQs. As you know we have also used this gained time to make some initial legal and financial enquiries. At this time no barriers have emerged which would cause us to withdraw our proposal.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff working with Y11 and 13 to support them through their assessments. Governors are very well aware that this assessment process has an impact on staff workload and we want you to know that you have the appreciation of governors, families and, of course, students.

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

