



Highfields School

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Our ref: AE/JAW

8 June 2021

Dear Highfields Stakeholders

FORMAL CONSULTATION

In response to stakeholder feedback which asked that face to face meetings should form part of formal consultation, governors have delayed for as long as possible to increase the chances of this being safe and practical.

At our latest meeting we evaluated the current context regarding Covid.

The road map is still unclear and face to face meetings may or may not be possible. Having delayed for many months, governors feel that stakeholders need this matter to move forward and so intend to continue with formal consultation with meetings which are either virtual or socially distanced, depending on government announcements made on 14 June.

Please write to the chair of governors at the school address above or email consultation@highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk by 3.30pm Friday 9 July if you wish your views to be taken into account.

Governors will next meet on Thursday 15 July to consider any new evidence presented and to decide how best to move forward. The law doesn't specify how long consultation should last, but given the availability of information since September 2020, the informal consultation in November 2020 and the long delay to try to facilitate face to face meetings, we believe that our timescales will have offered a reasonable opportunity for stakeholders to respond in line with best practice.

As part of the formal consultation process, we are offering all stakeholders an opportunity to meet Rob McDonough and members of EMET in sessions between 4-5pm or 5-6pm on Monday 21 June, Tuesday 22 June or Wednesday 23 June. Depending on the road map these will either be in person (socially distanced) or virtual. Please suggest your preferences on the link below to help our planning. There will be no admissions on the day as we need to be able to manage numbers attending.

[Click here to reserve your place if you would like to hear from Rob McDonough and members of EMET](#)

TUPE meetings are now being arranged between union officials, EMET and Derbyshire County Council and will take place during this formal consultation period.

Students will be given information through form periods and assemblies and will be offered the opportunity to share their views.

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





Recent speeches by the Secretary of State for Education have further indicated that the government intends for all schools to join trusts. We are extremely keen to seize this opportunity to join EMET, a trust which celebrates autonomy and individuality, rather than be face pressure at a later date to join a trust which does not respect Highfields' unique character and ethos.

As we move on from the pandemic we believe more than Highfields students and staff will benefit from belonging to a strong family of schools because:

- Better professional collaboration, support, training and progression opportunities will further improve the quality of the education we offer to our students and help them be the best they can
- Increased leadership capacity will ensure the very best standards for our students
- Enhanced investment in our buildings and facilities will enhance the education of Highfields students.

Full details regarding Highfields School's proposal to join EMET are available on the school website through the following link: <https://www.highfields.derbyshire.sch.uk/our-school/better-future/>

Thank you for your ongoing support and I wish you all the best for the final term of this year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Ellson'.

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