

21st May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all managing to keep safe and well during these unprecedented times. I continue to be in awe of how our students, staff and wider school community has pulled together at such a challenging time.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on the status of Queensbury Academy and its future relationship with Feversham Education Trust (FET), as we look ahead to the coming months.

We are proud of the work we have delivered at Queensbury Academy over the last four years, including significantly investing in the school to ensure that it is a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students. This extends to the positive relationships we have forged with the community and local businesses in order to raise the potential of our students.

The work of FET was recently praised in Queensbury's latest Ofsted report, with inspectors recognising the "effective actions" being taken by the Trust to remove the "serious weakness designation". However, due to long-term historical challenges, there remains a significant amount of investment, increased pace of improvement and resource required to elevate the school's outcomes.

Every decision that FET makes is always in the best interests of the children and young people it serves. In light of this, we have been working alongside the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) for Lancashire and West Yorkshire, Vicky Beer, to identify and secure a new sponsor which can provide the necessary support and resource, in order to safeguard the future of Queensbury and its students going forward.

Following a recent meeting, I am pleased to let you know that the Headteacher Board has now approved Trinity Multi-Academy Trust as the new sponsor of Queensbury Academy. As many of you will know, Trinity MAT is a local Trust which shares the same ethos as Queensbury Academy and understands the local context of our school community. Trinity has already been working closely with Queensbury Academy since January 2019 to provide additional support in a number of areas including teaching, curriculum development, and leadership and governance support.

By joining Trinity, Queensbury Academy will receive the additional resource and investment to drive the necessary improvements at the rapid speed required. I hope you agree that the new sponsor is a perfect fit for Queensbury, with real potential to support the school on its ongoing journey of improvement. Subject to the usual due diligence and contracts, we are hopeful the process will move forward rapidly, with transfer to Trinity taking place in the early part of the new academic year.

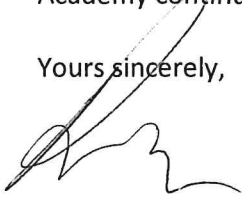
We understand that this change may cause some additional uncertainty within our school community, particularly during this unusual time. Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, we had hoped to defer the process until a later date so that we could of course hold a face-to-face meeting with you. However, the extended lockdown has not made this feasible, and ensuring we prioritise the best interests of our students and staff, the decision has been taken to continue with the transfer.

We will of course keep you updated with details on any further developments and will share additional information about the transfer as soon as possible. However, should you have any questions and queries, we would encourage you to submit these to feedback@fetrust.org.uk and all enquiries will then be responded to. Updates will also be posted on the Academy's website, including FAQs.

FET and Trinity will work closely together to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible, and will provide support to everyone involved, so that all children can continue to receive a high-quality education.

I would like to personally thank each and every student, staff member, parent, carer and the wider community for the continued effort and support you have given the Academy. We know that we can count on you to continue to be as supportive as you have always been, to ensure that Queensbury Academy continues to be a special place for your children.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Hanson
Principal of Queensbury Academy



Mubarruck Ibrahim
Chief Executive of Feversham Education Trust