



# Exmouth Community College

*Belonging · Ambition · Responsibility*

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MTeach

26<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Multi-Academy Trust Update**

As you're aware, we've been considering joining a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). It is our view that we will best be able to serve the Exmouth community through being part of a 'group' of schools; the vast majority of secondary schools are now part of a 'MAT'. For a little more explanation on the benefits of being in a MAT, see [Department for Education - What is an Academy and what are the benefits of joining?](#)

## **Our Previous MAT Collaboration**

We have, for some time, been working with the 'Education South West' MAT with a view to potentially joining them. We have hugely valued our partnership with them over the last 18 months and are incredibly grateful to them for all the support that they have given us.

However, the Department for Education (whose permission is required) confirmed to us recently that they did not feel that Education South West currently had the capacity to incorporate a school the size of Exmouth. We have been aware of this possibility for some time and so, over the last couple of months, have been carrying out a 'due diligence' process with two other MATs, the Ted Wragg Trust (based mainly in Exeter) and the WestCountry Schools Trust (based mainly in Plymouth), which the DfE have indicated would be options for us to join.

This process has been very thorough, involving a range of activities to really 'get under the skin' of both organisations so that the Governing Board could consider the best option for ECC going forward.

## **Our Chosen MAT Going Forward**

At a meeting on Tuesday evening the Governing Board took a decision to request to join the Ted Wragg Trust.

As well as schools in Exeter, the Ted Wragg Trust has recently incorporated a number of schools in South East Devon including Honiton Community College and Sidmouth College. It is led by CEO Moira Marder, who has a very strong and values-based vision for education that we feel chimes strongly with our own principles and our recently relaunched vision. The Trust has a strong track record of supporting schools to improve, as evidenced through exam results and OFSTED inspection reports, but, perhaps more compellingly, the Trust has a broad view of education and a real commitment to tackling the wider challenges that we face in education and that especially affect the most disadvantaged. It is their view, shared by our Governing Board, that this can be more effectively achieved through really strong local collaboration, as provided by the Ted Wragg Trust.

Of course, no single school or 'MAT' has all the answers, and Moira and the team are excited about how, with us, the Trust can continue to develop and improve just as we aspire to. Engaging with and strengthening

communities is a key strategic priority for the Trust and they are looking forward to coming to meet with parents/ carers and students so that we can, in partnership, continue to better serve our local community. If you'd like to read more about the Ted Wragg Trust, please see [tedwraggtrust.co.uk](https://tedwraggtrust.co.uk).

### **Our Next Steps**

The Governing Board's decision is now subject to initial approval by a regional board at the DfE, and includes a full consultation period with the community.

We are really keen to offer parents/ carers the opportunity to come and meet with key members of the Ted Wragg Team, with us, as soon as possible and we will be running a number of 'parent / carer consultation events', starting in May. We will confirm the timings of these (and share details of how to sign up) next week, but hope to follow the successful format that we've adopted recently, with a number of 'daytime' and a number of evening events, which will allow as many parents as wish to join us.

The final decision is subject to the outcomes of this consultation and approval from the Department for Education. If granted, it is likely that we would formally become a member of the Ted Wragg Trust in the early part of 2025.

Most importantly, it is the role of any MAT to enable school leaders to lead their schools. We are really reassured that the Ted Wragg Trust will enable us to continue the progress we have made to date and support us in continuing the journey of giving the Exmouth community the very best Secondary School that we can for future generations of our brilliant young people.

With best wishes



Tom Inman  
Headteacher