



Dear Parents/Carers

6 July 2023

You will be aware from past communications that The Castle Partnership Trust has been exploring a merger with our near neighbours, Uffculme Academy Trust.

I am very pleased to be able to confirm that both boards have voted unanimously to proceed with this merger and that this will take effect from the 1st September 2023. We have taken several months to explore fully the benefits and risks of this for our children and communities, and have concluded that the opportunity to enhance our educational provision, especially for our most vulnerable pupils and families, to invest in wider opportunities for staff development and wellbeing, and to bolster our organisational resilience at a time when education is facing significant challenge, is too strong to pass up.

Thus, as of September 1st, the five schools currently in The Castle Partnership Trust and the five in UAT will come together under the new name of the Blackdown Education Partnership.



We have agreed the following mission statement which will guide the decision making at every level:

- To nurture and develop the ambition, talents and interests of every child so that they can flourish in our schools
- To break down and address the barriers that inhibit the opportunities and achievements of disadvantaged pupils
- To create a family of schools that are deeply and purposefully connected to their communities

We know that families do not choose Trusts for their children; they choose schools and we are deeply committed to maintaining the unique character of each school in the Trust. There will be no changes anticipated as we merge into the new Trust apart from the Trust branding itself, although schools will remain as they are. Also, we have agreed that Lorraine Heath, CEO of UAT, will be the CEO of the new Trust and I will be Deputy CEO, as I am part-time and happy to remain so.

Thank you as ever for your continued support of your child's school and their teachers and support staff. I would like to wish all of our families a happy and restful summer break.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Watson
CEO

*"The Castle Partnership Trust". A company limited by guarantee,
registered in England and Wales, number 07657731*