



Small School ♦ Strong Values ♦ Great Experiences

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BRI/JHO

September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As you may be aware, there is a renewed Government vision for every school to be part of a family of schools in a strong multi-academy trust. In Derbyshire, Academy status is becoming more common and where appropriate, is encouraged and supported by the Local Authority as their budgets and subsequently their capacity to provide services to support schools have reduced.

Despite the above concerns, Parkside Community School is currently in a strong position. We are excited about being able to make a positive decision about the future and who we work with to support our work as a school at the heart of our community. The decisions we make over the coming months will allow us to re-shape our future in the best possible interests of our students, their staff and our wider school community. This decision will allow us to take advantage of opportunities, continue to build on our strengths and draw on the strengths of others in our pursuit of excellence in education and support for pupils and families.

After careful and lengthy consideration of the various options available to us, the Governors have decided that they wish to explore the option of joining the Embark Federation.

The Embark Federation is a family of 12 schools across Derbyshire who believe that by working together as a team, they can create schools that 'stand out' at the heart of their communities. They have 4 core beliefs that align with ours and are central to everything that they do: Family, Integrity, Teamwork and Success. Embark Federation is a strong and highly regarded Trust which currently has a Primary School focus. However, we are really excited at the prospect of being one of four Ofsted rated 'Good' Secondary Schools looking to join the Federation at the same time.

At this stage, the Governing Body are continuing their work to explore this option. The purpose of this letter is to be open and transparent across the school community about what is being considered. As part of the decision-making process, the Governing Body are committed to undertaking a full consultation with all of our major stakeholders within our local community. This will take place later in the Autumn term.

If in the meantime you have any questions or feedback, please contact us via [governors@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:governors@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk).

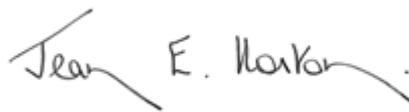
Following this initial stage of sharing details of the outline proposal with you, later in the Autumn term the school will share details of the proposal with the Department for Education regional advisory board for their consideration. Assuming it is appropriate to do so, there would then be a period of formal consultation with key stakeholder groups before any further decisions could or would be made.

We look forward to engaging with all stakeholders to discuss these important proposals.

Yours sincerely, and with very best wishes



Ben Riggott  
Headteacher



Jean Horton  
Chair of Governors

