

7<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Mr Peter Chase,

We are writing to inform you of some exciting and positive news regarding the multi-academy trust that Sharnbrook Academy is a member of - the Sharnbrook Academy Federation (SAF).

As you may be aware, in recent months we have been working closely with Cambridge Meridian Academies Trust (CMAT). The CEO of CMAT, Mark Woods, has acted as our Interim CEO and Accounting Officer since October 2020. Mark has been supported by members of the CMAT team in key operational areas such as finance, estates management, initial teacher training and IT. SAF Academy Principals have also been working alongside CMAT colleagues on a range of educational areas including assessment, the curriculum and enhancing our special educational needs provision.

The experience of working with CMAT has proved very positive: under their guidance, we have accelerated our progress even during the pandemic. We have been impressed by the skills and expertise of the CMAT team we have met, by their track record and by the way in which they and their trustees share a clear vision for what outstanding education at the heart of the community should look like.

With that in mind, the SAF Board of Trustees has been looking at a range of options for our future, ranging from staying as we are through to joining another trust. At the forefront of those discussions has been securing the greatest benefit for our students, our staff and our communities.

Having carefully thought through the options, the board of trustees reached the unanimous conclusion that the best way to secure the most successful future possible for our schools would be to join CMAT. Their track record as a highly successful regional trust is something that the trustees felt was both a great strategic match and a fantastic opportunity to secure a strong future.

SAF trustees have now made a formal request to the Regional Schools Commissioner for SAF to become part of CMAT and the current aim is for the transition to be complete by the beginning of the next academic year at the latest, and preferably before the summer break.

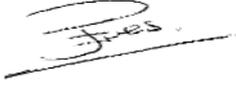
You can learn more about CMAT and their work at their [website linked here](#).

By choosing to join CMAT, a positive decision has been made that will provide security and certainty for the trust as well as new opportunities for our students, staff and communities.

CMAT places a strong emphasis on running schools for their local communities, something we intend to continue to build upon in the coming years as GOPA continues to go from

strength to strength. We look forward to continued working with CMAT colleagues and our local community to ensure that GOPA never stands still and is always striving for excellence regarding our children's pastoral and academic development.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Ives', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr P Ives

Principal