



BRC/HT

May 2023

Dear Students, Parents/Carers and Members of the John Kyrle School community

You may be aware of the direction of travel in the education community for single academies to join together as part of a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). This is something the governing body has reviewed as part of their governance work and in particular over the last two years in considering the best future for the school.

The governing body for John Kyrle High School & Sixth Form Centre (JKHS) are proposing the academy should join the Heart of Mercia Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). This MAT currently consists of Hereford 6th Form College, Worcester 6th Form College and King Edward's 6th Form College, and it is now offering to develop the trust with secondary partners. The governing body of JKHS feels that the timing and the opportunities offered by the Heart of Mercia, make this proposal one that has substantial advantage to the school.

The governing body judge that JKHS and its community will benefit in the following ways:

- enhanced educational experiences for students through benefits to professional development of teaching colleagues, especially focusing on Y11 work that overlaps with A-level and those colleagues at an early stage of their career development
- formalising school-improvement work and accessing specialist expertise, for the benefit of pupil outcomes and experience
- advantage link for those Y11 students choosing Hereford Sixth Form as their post-16 provider
- improved capacity and resilience for many functions such as IT, human resources, finance and purchasing including economies of scale
- the opportunity to automatically access capital funding from central government, once the Trust reaches the necessary threshold, and so invest in our site more quickly than would otherwise be possible, and
- improved staff retention and recruitment by creating greater opportunities for staff within the multi-academy trust setting.

One of the main attractions of the Heart of Mercia is that all institutions within it retain their own character and ethos. Equally, we are already aligned with the Heart of Mercia's existing values of *Educational Excellence*, *Creating an Enjoyable Experience*, *Ensuring Pupils are ready for the real world* and *Sustainability*. We fully believe that JKHS can maintain and grow its own ethos within this framework.

On a day-to-day basis a student at JKHS will not see any noticeable differences. We will be maintaining our own uniform, identity, admissions and all operational aspects. This has been very important to the Governing Body, as it is understood that this is well valued in our community. The key priority is to continue to provide an excellent education for our community whilst utilising the advantages of a larger organisation.



We are mindful that many of our students may not move on to study at one of these institutions. Therefore the governing body want stakeholders to be assured, we will continue to value and promote all the diverse opportunities in education, including our own sixth form provision at JKHS, along with training opportunities that are available to young people at 16 now and in the future.

The Governing Body of JKHS is now conducting a consultation on this proposal. The consultation period will begin on Monday 22nd May 2023 and end at 5:00pm on Friday 9th June 2023. During this time the Governing Body are seeking the views of all stakeholders, in the following ways, to inform any decision it will subsequently make:

- Write to all parents and carers and other stakeholders in our community
- Hold a meeting for parents/carers and other stakeholders in our community to discuss the proposals and talk to the headteacher, the Governing Body and the CEO of Heart of Mercia. **This will take place on Monday 22nd May at 5:00 pm** in the main hall/gallery entrance
- Hold a meeting for employees of JKHS to discuss the proposals and talk to the headteacher, the Governing Body and the CEO of Heart of Mercia
- Invite written responses from all stakeholders regarding the proposal.

Any comments or representations which are made about the proposal, will be considered by the Governing Body before it takes the final decision to join the Heart of Mercia Trust. The Governing Body will not vote to proceed with joining The Trust, unless they are content that the transfer would be in the best interests of the Academy, taking account of all the legal and practical ramifications.

To respond to this consultation please add your view via the online form [Consultation form](#)

Or write to:

Consultation Response

John Kyrle High School
Ledbury Road
Ross-on-Wye
Herefordshire
HR9 7ET

Responses must be received by Friday 9th June at 5:00pm.

Yours sincerely

Julian Morgan
Headteacher