

HEADTEACHER: CHRIS GREENHALL  
ASHLEIGH C OF E (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL  
BEVAN ROAD  
BARNSTAPLE  
EX32 8LJ



E-mail: [admin@ashleigh.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ashleigh.devon.sch.uk)  
Telephone: (01271) 345149/329367  
Website: [ashleighdevon.co.uk](http://ashleighdevon.co.uk)  
Fax: (01271) 329367

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, Ashleigh C of E (VC) Primary School has been part of the Three Valleys Co-operative Trust since March 2014. This network has proven to be very successful in ensuring that our local schools work together in the best interest of our children. We have shared professional development for our staff, enhanced learning for our children and have worked together to develop best practice in teaching and learning. Driven by our collective belief in the tremendous value of partnership working and in response to the changing educational landscape, all of the Trust schools have been considering how we can build upon and enhance the work of the Three Valleys Trust.

Over the last six months, Ashleigh C of E (VC) Primary School, Bishops Tawton Primary School, Bratton Fleming Community Primary School, Holywell C of E Primary School and Pilton Infants' School have individually and collectively researched the possibilities of joining a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). Following these extensive investigations, the Governors are formally considering the option of joining a Multi Academy Trust known as Ventrus.

The Governors believe the benefits of joining Ventrus would be:

- *To improve outcomes for all children;*
- *To create opportunities to share resources;*
- *To create wider opportunities for enhancing the education of the pupils e.g. joint school projects, sports and creative projects;*
- *To enable pupils to meet and work as a part of a larger group;*
- *To provide greater flexibility with regards to the curriculum to enhance opportunities for children;*
- *To provide greater staff development opportunities and networks which will enable our school to keep and develop valued staff;*
- *To secure and develop successful leaders for the future;*
- *To share best practice at all levels by making full use of staff expertise in specialist areas;*
- *To improve opportunities for professionals who know the pupils best to be at the centre of the decision making process;*
- *To manage school budgets more effectively and creatively to support pupil progress;*
- *To increase purchasing power and ability to secure best practice.*

The Governors have written a consultation document that explains in full the rationale and details of our proposal. The consultation document is available on our school website [www.ashleighdevon.co.uk](http://www.ashleighdevon.co.uk) (Hard copies are available from the school office).

We would like to invite you to attend a forum that will give you the opportunity to meet with leaders and governors from our school and representatives from Ventrus Multi-Academy Trust to seek any further information you may require. The date and time of the meetings are:

- General meeting: **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May** 6p.m. at Ashleigh C of E (VC) Primary School
- If you unable to attend the above meeting, Gary Chown, CEO of Ventrus will be available for individual meetings, by appointment on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June

You may also send your consultation responses to the school office marked for the attention of the Chair of Governors or the Ventrus Consultation email address [Consultation@ventrus.org.uk](mailto:Consultation@ventrus.org.uk). This meeting represent the start of a period of formal consultation with parents. The consultation will also be extended to other members of our community including neighbouring schools, the local authority and other interested parties. The closing date of the consultation period will be Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

Following this period of consultation, the governing body will decide whether or not to apply to convert to academy status. This decision will be taken in the interest of the children and you will be informed of the outcome as soon as possible. This is a new and exciting time as we look to the future of our school and we welcome your continued support and engagement.

Yours sincerely,

**Jonathan Broad**  
**Chair of Governors for Ashleigh C of E (VC) Primary School**

---

Please confirm whether you will be attending the consultation meeting by noon on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 by returning this slip to the main school office.

**I will/I will not** be attending the meeting at 6pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May at Ashleigh C of E (VC) Primary School

**Name:** *(optional)*