



Tyne Community Learning Trust
TCLT House
Ovingham Middle School
Ovingham
Prudhoe NE42 6DE

December 19th 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I just wanted to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and I hope that you enjoy a restful time with family and friends over this festive season.

It has been great to see so many of you at the Christmas Nativity shows in First schools and nice that Broomley Parents made the trip through the snow and ice to see their children make full use of the lovely facilities at Prudhoe High School. It was so nice to be able to welcome parents into the schools in person for the first time in what has seemed like a long time.

I know, however there have been high levels of illness amongst our staff and therefore I imagine amongst pupils with flus and colds abounding. I hope that any of you who are suffering are on the mend and thank you to all the staff who covered and supported the smooth running of schools despite the level of absence.

Attached to this letter is a brief FAQ, about the proposed merger between The Tyne Community Learning Trust and The 3 Rivers Learning Trust. In February we will be beginning formal consultation meetings but I wanted to give you a brief update and answer a few questions I have heard through governing bodies. Please do not hesitate to ask any further questions through the school governors or to the schools themselves.

Thank you for your continued support and have a restful and fun break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads 'Alice A Witherow'.

Alice Witherow
Chief Executive Officer

1. What are the principal purposes of the merger?

The principal purpose of merger is to improve educational outcomes through collaboration with other schools by bringing schools together in learning networks, an approach which has been developed by the Confederation of School Trusts, sector body for MATs. Currently there are no peers for staff at PCHS to join in a network as TCLT only has one High school but in a merged Trust there will be two High schools and an increase in numbers of Middle and First schools giving wider opportunity for staff to work in learning networks, focusing on strong practice and impactful teaching, sharing and learning from each other ensuring that staff are supported to get the very best outcomes for pupils.

2. Will the identity of each school in the Trust be retained?

In the same way as we have retained the identity of each individual school in the current Trust, we intend that to be exactly the same. Each school will have its own uniform, a governing body with representatives from parents, staff and the community to look after it and a staff group for that school. Where aligning systems such as information systems, IT systems and curriculum is seen to benefit pupils, these will be considered.

3. Who will be in charge of the Trust

This work is being undertaken by an advisory group made up of directors from both organisations supported by an independent HR consultant and the outcome will be shared with schools when the work completes and as part of the final consultation.

4. When is the decision on the merger to be taken?

A decision to finally merge will be taken after formal consultation and feedback from this is considered. It is anticipated that this will happen around April, however any unexpected issues that arise after that could still halt the merger so no final decision is actually made until the paper is signed. We are working towards a merger date of September 2023.

5. When will parents be consulted?

Parents will be formally consulted when this opens in February. A timeline of key events is attached to this communication. You will be able to attend events and read the consultation documents. Should you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to ask.

Timeline for Merger of Tyne Community Learning Trust and Three Rivers Learning Trust



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