

7th November 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

I informed you at the beginning of the autumn term that The Governing Body of Rye Hills was investigating becoming part of Nunthorpe Multi Academy Trust which was established from Nunthorpe (secondary) Academy, an 'Outstanding' school. The aim being to help Rye Hills consolidate the improvements we have made since our recent Ofsted inspection, whilst maintaining elements of our own identity as a community school in Redcar that cares for and nurtures its students as well as striving for academic excellence.

On 3rd November the Department of Education agreed to the sponsorship of Rye Hills Foundation School by Nunthorpe Multi Academy Trust (NMAT). This decision has the approval of both schools' Governing Bodies and Senior Leadership Teams.

As you are already aware Mr Brown (Executive Principal of Nunthorpe Academy) has been working closely with Rye Hills' senior leaders, since September. This sponsorship will ensure that both schools work increasingly closely together as part of the Multi Academy Trust. In fact, the sponsorship element of this agreement allows us to access additional funds to bring about further school improvements. This relationship will help to raise standards further in both schools and will provide increased opportunities for Rye Hills' students and staff.

Over the next few months Rye Hills will become an Academy, as only Academies can join Multi Academy Trusts. Rye Hills Academy will maintain its own uniform, badge and its position within the community that it serves. The Nunthorpe Multi Academy Trust Governing Body believes that all academies must maintain elements of their own identity as a one-size model does not fit all.

I will keep you updated on the academisation process as it progresses via the school website and I hope that this decision provides reassurance and confidence for you as the school moves forward.

Many thanks for your patience while we have been waiting for a decision from the Regional Schools' Commissioner.

Yours faithfully



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