

12<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

As you will be aware from the regular updates I have included in the letters I have written during the autumn term the Governing Body of Rye Hills has been 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 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 3<sup>rd</sup> November the Department for 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.

As a school we strongly believe that the opportunity provided through conversion to a sponsored academy and joining Nunthorpe Multi Academy Trust will enable us to further raise standards and outcomes with the support of an outstanding school and widen opportunities for all students.

If you have any comments that you may wish to make regarding the academisation please email your views to [consultation@ryehills.rac.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@ryehills.rac.sch.uk) by 8.2.17. Alternatively, we have placed a box in the school reception where you can post your responses to the consultation. Responses will not be responded to individually but will be collated and taken into account by the school's governors when finalising decisions; the key points will be fed back via a summary on our school website.

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There will then be a consultation drop in session for parents and any members of the community who wish to ask questions on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February from 6 – 7pm in our school hall where Iain Fuller (Chair of Governors) and Lee Brown (Executive Principal of Nunthorpe Academy) will also be available.

This is an exciting period in the journey of Rye Hills School and we look forward to seeing the benefits of our newly acquired Academy status very soon.

We look forward to hearing any comments you may have.

Yours faithfully,



**Mrs C. Waugh**  
**Head of School**



**Mr I Fuller**  
**Chair of Governors**