



October 2022

Dear Pupils, Parents, Staff, Members of The Chantry School community and partner institutions,

Many of you will 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 regularly reviewed as part of our governance work over the last six years in considering the best future for the school.

The Governing Body is now proposing that The Chantry School should join The Heart of Mercia Multi Academy Trust. This multi academy trust currently consists of Hereford 6th Form College, Worcester 6th Form College and King Edward's 6th Form College, and is now proposing to develop their trust with secondary partners. Only now do the Governing Body of The Chantry School feel that the timing and the opportunities offered by the Heart of Mercia make this proposal one that has substantial advantage to the school.

The Heart of Mercia currently consists of the 3 sixth form colleges named above. For The Chantry School and its stakeholders these 3 institutions will be well known, and makes the Heart of Mercia a natural partner. Every year between 50 and 60% of our pupils move to one of these colleges for their post-16 provision.

The Governing Body judge that The Chantry School and its community will benefit in the following ways:

- Enhanced educational experiences for pupils 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.
- Improved transition for those Y11 pupils choosing one of these institutions.
- Formalising school improvement work and accessing specialist expertise, for the benefit of pupil outcomes and experience.
- 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.
- 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 The Chantry School can maintain and grow its own ethos within this framework.

On a day to day basis a pupil at The Chantry School 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, many of whom are parents or past parents, 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 pupils do not, and will not, move to study at one of these institutions. The Governing Body will continue to value and promote all the diverse opportunities in education and training that are available to young people at 16 now and in the future.

The Governing Body of The Chantry School is now conducting a consultation on this proposal. The consultation period will begin on Monday 3rd October 2022 and end at 5:00 pm on Friday 11th November 2022. 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, inviting their response.
- Hold a meeting for parents and 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 Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 5:30 pm** in the school hall.
- Hold a meeting for employees of The Chantry School 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 about the proposal.

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

To respond to this consultation on whether the transfer should take place:

Please complete this online [Consultation Form](#)

Or write to:

**Consultation Response**  
The Chantry School,  
Martley,  
Worcestershire  
WR6 6QA

Responses must be received by 5:00 pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Kind regards,



Andrew Dickenson  
Headteacher



Paul Wilcox  
Chair of Governors