Friday, 18th October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

**Stakeholder Consultation: Joining the Manor Hall Academy Trust**

You may recall that we wrote to you, in our newsletter, about our intention, as a school, to convert to an Academy. We are now in a position to start the formal process of consultation with stakeholders.

I am extremely pleased to announce that the organisation we are looking to join is The Manor Hall Academy Trust (MHAT), which is based in Staffordshire.

We believe that moving to the MHAT will have many benefits for our students, families and staff, and will enable us to work closer with other highly regarded SEMH schools. We will be able to share expertise in all areas of school life, whilst at the same time, maintain all of the attributes that make our schools so special.

We will also be able to share resources and staff expertise to develop our curriculum and school offer. The trust have a central focus on professional development for our staff so that we can continually improve our teaching and learning.

Current members of the MHAT are Loxley Hall (Uttoxeter) and Cicely Haughton (Leek), both of which are residential SEMH schools; Rocklands (Lichfield), Merryfields (Newcastle Under Lyme), Chase Lea PRU (Cannock), Springfields and The Meadows (Leek).

Each school within the MHAT retains its own individuality, ethos and values. In terms of the day to day life of the school, there will be little difference to that which is currently experienced by the students, parents and carers.

The current leadership team will continue to make operational decisions and share the strategic leadership with our Governing Body but we will also benefit from sharing best practice amongst other schools.

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I have attached a brief FAQs document to address some of the most frequently asked questions that schools receive following the decision to convert.

The consultation period is from Friday, 18th October to Friday, 13th December 2019. You may also wish to send comments or questions to Nikki Fellows, Clerk to Governors, at Nikki.Fellows@sips.co.uk or via the phone at the school office, 01543 480369.

You are also invited to a ‘question and answer’ meeting atThe Brades Lodge School on Wednesday, 27th November 2019 at 4.00pm. For those of you who wish to attend this meeting but cannot, I have left space in my diary to receive telephone calls on Monday,

9th December 2019 between 2.00pm and 4.00pm.

Governors will have access to, and will consider, all responses before they make a final decision to convert.

Myself and Governors look forward to engaging with you in this very important step for our school.

Yours sincerely



Neil Toplass

Executive Head Teacher