

17 May 2022

Dear Parents, Carers, Colleagues and Friends

A New Strategic Partnership for Test Valley School

Before Easter I wrote to you with an outline of the work the Governors have been doing to support and strengthen our school for the next 10 years and beyond. I would now like to update you on where this work has got to and share some exciting news.

To enable a school of our size to offer the best experience to young people and to serve our community most effectively, we have explored a number of options for a strategic partnership – either through federating with another Hampshire maintained school or by joining a local Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). We wish to preserve the many things that are unique about Test Valley School whilst delivering more stable leadership, a clear direction and access to resources which are hard for a smaller school to achieve on its own. I am delighted to announce that the Board of Governors has decisively recommended that we open negotiations to join the **HISP Multi Academy Trust (MAT)** and that we undertake a structured consultation process with parents and stakeholders.

HISP is a local MAT that has its roots in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Southampton and Portsmouth. It has been a Multi Academy Trust with 3 schools (Thornden Secondary School in Chandlers Ford, Tanners Brook and Portswood Primary Schools in Southampton) since July 2020. Test Valley School is currently a Local Authority School but would become an Academy as part of the process of joining the MAT and, in doing so, would be ahead of the curve. The Department for Education has recently announced their intention that all schools will have a plan to become part of a MAT by 2030.

Our research has identified a number of benefits to being part of a MAT and HISP have an exciting vision for Test Valley School as a hub for Teacher Training & Development as well as a centre of excellence for Maths and Science which would directly support our teachers and students. The Governors feel it is important that we consult with you and wider stakeholders and also undertake thorough due diligence with both HISP and Hampshire Local Authority.

We will share further information and publish the consultation process on 20 May and this will run until 21 June 2022. This will also include the mechanism for raising questions or concerns, answers to some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and details of consultation meetings which will be arranged to hear your views. Should you wish to find out more about HISP in the meantime, you can see much more at [HISP Multi Academy Trust - Home \(hispmat.org\)](http://hispmat.org).

The Governors are resolved to ensure that Test Valley School continues to deliver the best education experience we can for our young people. Our primary focus right now remains on supporting Andrew Page and the Senior Leadership Team and we continue to enjoy great support from both Hampshire Local Authority and Crestwood School. With GCSEs upon us, we are determined to ensure that students across all years get the best from the hard work they have put in this year.

Many thanks for your support.



Roma Chappell
Chair of Governors

HEADTEACHER • MR A PAGE

Roman Road, Stockbridge, Hampshire SO20 6HA — Tel 01264 810555
Email: office@testvalley.hants.sch.uk — Website: www.testvalley.hants.sch.uk
Test Valley School @testvalleysch testvalleyschool

