



West Hill School  
Kingston Road  
Leatherhead  
Surrey KT22 7PW

[www.west-hill.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.west-hill.surrey.sch.uk)

01372 814714

[office@west-hill.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:office@west-hill.surrey.sch.uk)

Headteacher Judy Nettleton MA

7<sup>th</sup> September 2017

To parents and carers of West Hill children,

On Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September, the governing body of West Hill took the decision to join the LIFT Partnership, a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) created by West Hill and Linden Bridge. We anticipate that the schools will transfer to Academy status on October 1<sup>st</sup> this year. The due diligence process has been long and exhaustive. It is important you know that governors took the decision in a unanimous vote. All of the governors are convinced that joining Linden Bridge in this new venture is very positive for all stakeholders at West Hill.

The newly formed Trust has ambitions to grow and to be an influential provider of education to children with special educational needs. The MAT will secure the best funding outcome for West Hill. It will give us the best opportunity to invest in our school's improvement and provide the resources and services that our fantastic staff and young people need. There will be more opportunity for the teaching staff to share expertise and satisfy career aspirations. Most important of all, given the challenges facing Surrey and the funding of special education, governors believe the MAT will secure the best outcomes for our pupils. And our MAT has been granted the opportunity to open a new school in Surrey, which will provide a similar education service to Linden Bridge. So there will be opportunity in future to provide an outstanding education to a greater number of children with autism in the region.

The MAT created by West Hill and Linden Bridge will operate a decentralised model, so the school's leadership team and governing body will continue to run the academy on a day-to-day basis, much in the same way as in the past. The move to create the MAT is about the long-term future-proofing of the outstanding education we provide at West Hill. So you and your children will not see dramatic change at West Hill in the short term. But if you have any concerns about what the creation of the MAT and our partnership with Linden Bridge means, please do not hesitate to direct questions to Judy Nettleton, our Headteacher, or to me as Chair of the governing body.

Yours faithfully,

Ray Marsh

[Raymarsh@talktalk.net](mailto:Raymarsh@talktalk.net)