

21st April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: APPROVAL OF VOLUNTARY MERGER OF CPET WITH CMAT – NEW NAME OF MERIDIAN TRUST

Earlier this academic year we wrote to inform you of the proposal for the voluntary merger of Cambridge Primary Education Trust (CPET) with Cambridge Meridian Academies Trust (CMAT) and the potential for a change of name for CMAT to reflect both the merger and the recent growth of CMAT.

We write to you again today with some exciting news. We can let you know that the Regional Schools' Commissioner approved the voluntary merger on April 1st 2022 and the new Trust is now known as Meridian Trust.

Under the new Meridian Trust, 23 CMAT primary, secondary and special schools will come together with five CPET primary schools - Hatton Park Primary School, Histon & Impington Brook Primary School, Histon & Impington Park Primary School, Somersham Primary School and Trumpington Park Primary School - educating approximately 17,000 pupils.

Ahead of the approval from the Regional Schools' Commissioner, both CPET and CMAT engaged in a period of comprehensive public consultation towards the end of 2021. Throughout the consultation period, both Trusts stressed their "clear commitment to providing an outstanding education in the heart of their local community". The outcomes of the consultation were formally presented to the Trustee Boards of CMAT and CPET and then the proposal getting final approval.

There has always been a great amount of common ground between CPET and CMAT in terms of moral purpose, values and ambition and a long history of close collaboration. Lesley Birch, a CMAT Trustee and CEO of CPET is now the Deputy CEO of Meridian Trust.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Teaching School Hub, based at CPET's Histon and Impington Brook Primary School, is also now part of Meridian Trust. The Hub supports more than 300 schools, making it the third largest in the country, with a range of professional development for teachers at all stages of their careers.

Why the name Meridian Trust?

- It has become clear in recent years that the previous name for CMAT no longer fully reflected our journey over our first ten years. We felt it was key to keep the word Meridian within our new name as it has a clear connection to CMAT's inception.
- To reflect the growth and geographical reach of Meridian Trust we have removed any former reference to Cambridge or Cambridgeshire: collectively we operate schools across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire and have forged strong links within all these communities.
- Meridian was chosen because the Greenwich Meridian geographical reference line passes through the village of Swavesey, the location for CMAT's first school back in 2011, and it also runs through Somersham, where one of CPET's primary schools is situated. This presents a golden thread both geographically but also through time.
- The Greenwich Meridian – as a geographical reference line - is a simple concept which has shaped our ability to understand and interpret the world. It has enabled us to navigate and to

discover providing a baseline from which we work and understand our position. It's this essence of Meridian that has seen us through our first decade and provides a foundation for the next ten years and beyond.

What happens next?

We will be taking time over the next four months to reflect on the learnings from our first decade as Trusts (recognising the experience of all our constituent schools) and to evolve our thinking about our future together, especially within the primary family.

We will be engaging with staff, parents/carers, and partners to consider what high quality learning at the heart of the community will mean in the future and how we achieve the aspirations of our vision and mission.

Our values will remain consistent. These are Valuing People; High-Quality Learning Environment; The Pursuit of Excellence; Extending the Boundaries of Learning and Achievement For All.

We will also use this programme to discuss our new logo, the interim version of which we are pleased to share with you in this letter and consider any necessary changes. New branding and signage to reflect the schools being part of Meridian Trust will be rolled out later this year.

We will be in touch with further details on how you can take part in the engagement process. Should you wish to contact us in advance of this please do so via info@meridiantrust.co.uk.

This is a significant step for both Trusts and one which will fundamentally increase our capacity for providing high-quality teaching and learning and delivering an even stronger pupil experience. We are very excited for the future ahead.

Yours faithfully,

MARK WOODS



MERIDIAN TRUST CEO

LESLEY BIRCH



MERIDIAN TRUST DEPUTY CEO