

May 2024

**MKET/5D/IfTL Update**

Dear all,

You may be aware that over the past few terms, after our previous Chief Executive stepped down, we have been supported by Tony Nelson (Chief Executive of 5 Dimensions Trust) while our Trustees explored the best options to support our schools in the future. After a robust process, we determined that the schools would be best supported by joining with other, local, experienced and established Trusts – 5 Dimensions Trust and Inspiring Futures through Learning.

I am delighted to inform you that the Department for Education's Regional Director has now given their full support for our plans for our schools to join the Trusts. This means we are one significant step closer on the journey for Walton High to become a member of the 5 Dimensions Trust community and the three primary schools, Heronsgate, New Chapter and Kents Hill, to become part of the Inspiring Futures through Learning Trust family.

I have been proud to work with both Chief Executives, Sarah Bennett and Tony Nelson over the past few months and have seen first-hand the respect they demonstrate in all their work with the community. They have the vision and expertise to drive our schools forward from the good place they have been, to something even better.

Further details will be shared with staff, students, parents, and the wider community over the next few weeks, including timelines for the next steps shortly after May half term.

Although the transfer is now highly probable, it is important to highlight that this is not the final step, as all three Trusts need to complete their due diligence process.

I hope that you share my excitement with this news, which will help ensure the best possible future for our schools, staff and the young people we all serve.

Yours sincerely



Penny Dent  
Chair of Trustees