

6th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing on behalf of the Trust Board to update you on Board's consideration of the future operating model for Chandag Infant and Chandag Junior schools.

I wrote to you in February 2021 to explain the Board's intention to carry out a feasibility study to consider the practicalities of amalgamating the two schools into one all-through primary school. This work was undertaken during terms 5 and 6 and, having given the findings due consideration, the Board has confirmed its view that it is in the long term best interest of children to amalgamate the schools into one primary school. The Board believes that a primary school will be a stronger school, providing continuity of education that will better support children's development and progress and wider opportunities for staff.

The Board has therefore instructed the executive to carry out a formal consultation with all stakeholders that will inform its final decision. The Trust Board will make the final decision in February 2022, which will take fully into account the views expressed during the consultation. If something comes up during the consultation that convinces the Board it is not the correct decision, we will proceed with the partnership model that is developing at the moment, with the schools remaining as separate schools working together under the leadership of an executive headteacher.

The timeline going forward is as follows:

Communicate Board decision to HT/AGC chair	July 2021
Communicate Board decision to stakeholders	Sept 2021
Carry out statutory consultation	Oct 2021 – Jan 2022
Final Board decision	Feb 2022
Communicate final Board decision	Feb 2022

If final decision is to amalgamate the schools:

Gain formal approval from DfE	March - July 2022
Communicate DfE decision	by July 2022
Appoint headteacher	Sept/Oct 2022
Consultation re school name, uniform etc.	Oct – Dec 2022
Application deadline for new school	Oct 31 <sup>st</sup> 2022
Staffing appointments made	Nov 22 – April 23
Building work undertaken	June – Sept 2023
CIS and CJS close	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023
New primary school opens	1 <sup>st</sup> Sept 2023

During the consultation period we will hold meetings with parents, staff and other interested parties. These meetings will include a presentation that will explain why the Board believes

amalgamation is the way forward and what the plans are should this be the final decision. You will also be asked to fill in a consultation form and will have the opportunity to submit your views in writing should you wish to do so. Whilst it is the Board's responsibility to make the decision, trustees are keen to know they have the support of the community in doing so.

We are in the process of arranging the consultation meetings and will let you know the dates shortly.

The partnership model, with Mrs Smart as executive head (alongside her post as head of CIS) and Mrs Savory as head of school at CJS, will continue in the meantime. We are very grateful to Mrs Smart and Mrs Savory for the excellent work they are doing to bring the two schools closer together.

If you have any questions at this stage please do not hesitate to email them to your child's school.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family all the best for the new school year.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Arlidge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

Andrea Arlidge  
Chief Executive