

11 April 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

SOUTH BANK ACADEMY TRUST

Welcome back. The start of the summer term also marks the first day that Scarcroft, Knavesmire and Millthorpe schools are open as academies, and founder members of the South Bank Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). Therefore, we wanted to write to let you know a little more about what has changed - and what hasn't.

The Trust is now the legal owner and operator of the schools, funded directly by the Department for Education. The Trust is a registered charity and a company, governed by the Board of Trustees which has ultimate responsibility for the education your children receive. We are now independent of the local authority, but will continue to work closely with City of York Council.

You, your children and our staff should notice no difference in the daily life of the school. In the coming weeks and months, we will be working hard to deepen the collaboration between the schools. In a rapidly changing educational environment, our goal is to preserve the tremendous strengths the schools have demonstrated over many years, while finding new ways to enhance and extend the education we offer.

You may have seen in the press that the government has recently opened a debate about the role of parents in relation to schools. Our MAT was conceived as a local solution to the changes in national education policy, rooted in our community, and we are proud to have realised that vision. Fully half our Trustees have children at one or more of the MAT schools, and all governing bodies will continue to have elected parent governors. Parents and the wider community are crucial to the success of the MAT, and we will try to keep you as informed and involved as possible.

Under the Trust's Scheme of Delegation, the Local Governing Bodies and Headteachers retain day-to-day responsibility for the good running of the schools. Therefore, if you have any issues you wish to raise about the school, please speak to your Headteacher or governors as you would have previously. If you have any questions about the MAT, please don't hesitate to contact us via the Clerk to the Board, Lesley Buckley, on 01904 686404 or clerk@southbanktrust.co.uk.

We hope your children have an exciting and inspiring term ahead.

Yours faithfully



Edwin Thomas
Chair of Trustees



Nicki Mitchell
Vice Chair of Trustees