

24 June 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of the school year, I wanted to update you on the latest news regarding the South Bank MAT.

### **Expansion of Scarcroft School**

As you may be aware, the Local Authority has forecast a need for more primary school places in the South Bank area over the coming years. They have examined various options to meet the need, and last month the Council Executive approved funds to expand Scarcroft School to two-form entry (ie two full classes per year) on its existing site. The Trust board have considered this and agreed to move forward with the Council's proposal, subject to the provision of appropriate indoor and outdoor facilities for the enlarged school. We will now be working closely with the Local Authority to ensure that the project moves ahead to provide much-needed places for our community.

### **Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on Scarcroft Green**

You may have received a leaflet from a group called the Friends of Scarcroft Green claiming that, because of academisation, the MAT is seeking to have an artificial sports pitch (MUGA) built on Scarcroft Green. This is absolutely untrue. The higher pupil numbers at Scarcroft School will require access to more outdoor sports and play space, in order to meet minimum requirements laid down by the Department for Education and Sport England. To meet those requirements, the Local Authority have proposed a full-size artificial pitch, but neither the MAT nor Scarcroft School have ever suggested placing it on Scarcroft Green. The Trust board and Scarcroft governors both believe that the most appropriate site would be at Millthorpe School, where the pitch would complement existing sports facilities and act as a shared resource for the schools and the wider community. None of this is in any way related to the fact that the schools are now academies.

Local councillors will soon run a public consultation on where to site the MUGA, and I encourage you to make your views known. We will provide more information as soon as we have it.

### **Woodthorpe School**

We have recently received an approach from Woodthorpe Primary School to explore the possibility of their joining the South Bank MAT. Woodthorpe School has been on an impressive journey in recent years and we are delighted that they are interested in continuing it with us. Woodthorpe's governors will now hold a consultation with their parents and staff, while the Trust board will examine the proposal in detail to ensure it would have strong benefits for the MAT.

I hope you have a wonderful summer. Best wishes to those pupils who will be starting at a new school in September and good luck to all who are awaiting exam results.

Yours faithfully



**Edwin Thomas**  
Chair of Trustees