

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to share with you that Governors have appointed the law firm Browne Jacobson, to support us with the legal aspects of the conversion process. Browne Jacobson have a wealth of experience in supporting schools through the conversion process, and work closely with the Department for Education. Governors are confident that the law firm will work with us to shape our documentation to ensure that it represents the direction in which we would want our organisation to develop. Nick MacKenzie (pictured above), who is a Partner at Browne Jacobson, will be leading on the process for us.



"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Helen Keller

Announcing our Board Members

We have now confirmed the composition of our Board of Members, who are experts in their field and offer a broad range of skills and expertise. The Members are acutely aligned to the principles and values that underpin The Compass Partnership, and aspire to achieving the kind of education we would want for our communities. There will be five Members as follows:



Mary Whitehead was a highly successful Greenwich Executive Headteacher and National Leader of Education who was the founder of the Royal Greenwich Teaching School Alliance. She brings an in-depth knowledge of great education and school leadership to ensure the Trust focuses on the right things.



Alex Brooks-Johnson is the Chief Executive of The Wide Horizons Trust, and brings extensive expertise in trust management and leadership, in the field of education. He is passionate about adventure learning and is committed to education that is expansive, inclusive, and challenging. Alex will ensure the Trust meets its obligations to build resilience, independence, and aspiration, in the context of a well-rounded education.



Fiona Aubrey-Smith is a national leader in the largest professional network for educators; The Schools Students and Teachers Network (SSAT). She is a key advocate of great schools, and builds systems and networks to facilitate school-to-school support and challenge across the country. She is a key policy driver and advisor, and an intellectual of high calibre. Fiona will ensure the Trust is outward-looking, innovative, and influential, so that our children and families get the best.



David Mbatha is a senior manager at Accenture, and brings extensive expertise in financial management, risk management, and project management. He is passionate about the education of children with special educational needs, and has worked tirelessly as a governor at Willow Dene School to drive change, and establish outstanding provision. David will ensure the Trust remains focused and committed to the education of all children.



James Mackenzie-Blackman is Executive Director of a leading edge arts company, Matthew Bourne's New Adventures. He has over 15 years of experience in arts sector policy and

management, including strategic planning, marketing, and public relations. James has worked to increase participation of young people in the arts. Through his national networks, James will help to ensure that our children are exposed to exceptional experiences across the arts sector.

The Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) is one organisation and legal entity for which the Trustees have responsibility. The Trustees set the strategic direction for the MAT and are accountable to the Secretary of State for its performance. We have almost finalised the composition of our Trustee Board, but this is still under consultation with our Governing Bodies, and no decision has been made as to the final list. We look forward to sharing details of the agreed Trustees with you very shortly.

During the academic year 2016-17 we will meet with staff alongside HR colleagues from the Local Authority to discuss the implications of the conversion process with them. We have already explained that The Compass Partnership is committed to maintaining current terms

and conditions, and that staff should not feel a change. We will also continue to meet with representatives from trade unions with the purpose of continuing the positive dialogue we have initiated with them. Greenwich HR have collated the questions and answers arising from our meetings with staff of the 6 schools converting in October, which are published on their school websites for all staff to refer to.

We have been working hard to create a mission statement that we feel represents the ethos and values of all of the schools in our group, and are pleased to share this with you:

The Compass Partnership of Schools is fully inclusive and committed to achieving high quality educational outcomes for all of our children. Through the provision of rich and meaningful curricula, which place a strong emphasis on the arts and sport, we develop a love of learning and the motivation to succeed. We know that school is just one element of our children's experience, and work alongside our families and community to foster a sense of moral and social responsibility. Our curricula focus on providing experiences that encourage our children to become curious, enthusiastic, resilient, and confident learners, enabling them to change the world for the better.

We are keen that this continues to be a process of open dialogue and will provide the opportunity in the coming months for parents and staff in each school to review our core documentation, and give feedback on these, so that they can be shaped accordingly.

Thank you again for your engagement in the process so far.

John Camp
Executive Headteacher
The Compass Partnership of Schools