



Gold Award



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Dear Parent/Carer

ENGAGEMENT ON THE PROPOSAL TO JOIN SMART MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

As a single academy trust Grasmere Academy and its Board of Trustees have been exploring the possibility of joining a like-minded, values driven multi academy trust. We have reviewed the options and have identified SMART Multi Academy Trust as the MAT that we wish to join.

The overarching purpose for taking this step is to enhance the support and opportunities that our students receive. Working as part of a larger entity will give us the opportunity to share excellent practice across a range of schools and access high quality staff development opportunities. We should also enjoy the greater purchasing power of a larger group.

SMART Multi Academy Trust is a MAT based in Newcastle upon Tyne which covers a vast geographical area, determined to deliver the very highest standard of education through the provision of a high-quality curriculum and the development of our pupils as individuals, so they are fully equipped for life.

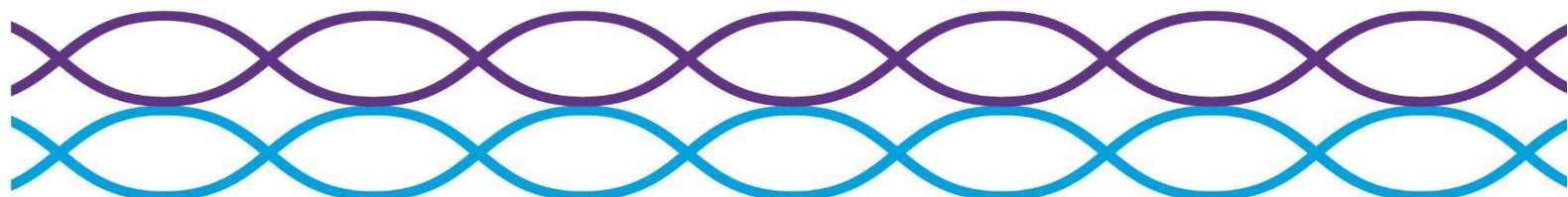
The schools currently in the Trust are:

- Cheviot Primary School
- Farne Primary School
- Kenton Bar Primary School
- Kingston Park Primary School
- Mountfield Primary School
- Stocksfield Avenue Primary School
- Wyndham Primary School

The values of the trust closely align with those of Grasmere Academy, particularly their ethos of inclusivity for all pupils while allowing us to retain our unique school identity. Working with the trust and its schools is seen by the Governors as a means to strengthen our school further, offering new and enhanced opportunities for both pupils and staff. You can find out more information about the trust on their website at www.smartacademies.net

We are holding an engagement period to inform our staff, parents and carers and other key stakeholders on the merger to join SMART Multi Academy Trust.

The engagement period will run from **11 October 2023** to **7 November 2023**.



We have organised an information session for parents/carers and the community to explain what joining SMART Multi Academy Trust will bring to Grasmere Academy. This meeting will take place at Grasmere Academy on **20 October 2023 at 2.30pm**. The session will be an opportunity to ask questions about joining a MAT and how this will affect the school and your child(ren). Representatives from SMART Multi Academy Trust, Governors and school leadership will be available to talk to you and you will also be able to register your comments, queries and any thoughts on opportunities or concerns.

If you would like to attend this meeting, please fill in the google form which can be found on the school website to secure your place.

We also enclose with this letter a copy of Frequently Asked Questions, which you may find of interest. On the school website we have created an academy engagement area where you will find a copy of the information sent home today as well as an online feedback form. Further detail will also be added to the website as it emerges.

If you are unable to attend the engagement session but would like further information you can contact the school in the following ways:

- By telephone: 0191 222 0259
- By email at: info@grasmereacademy.org.uk
- Complete our online feedback form on the school website
- Complete the paper survey enclosed with this letter and return it to the school office.

We look forward to speaking with you soon.

Yours sincerely

Kerry Lilico
Headteacher

Lynn Goossens
Chair of Trustees

Enc.
Survey
Frequently Asked Questions

