



Traditional **Values** • Contemporary **Aspirations** • Creative **Curiosity**

10th November 2015

Dear Parent /Carer

As you will be aware, leaders at Malet Lambert have been working in partnership with leaders from South Hunsley School since September. This partnership has been a very positive one and has allowed both schools to recognise their many similarities, shared values and aspirations. Working together, has allowed two well established secondary schools with strong reputations to build on their successful tradition in a new supportive way and this has offered the partnership a great deal of strength, knowledge and expertise.

Since the General Election in May, the landscape in education has changed considerably and in the coming years it is likely that most schools will become academies but rather than academies standing alone as single academies, they will join with other academies as formal partners in Multi-Academy Trusts. This process may be by choice or by external direction. At this time, we have choice about who we partner and we see this as a great opportunity to continue the initial success of the partnership between Malet Lambert and South Hunsley School.

As a result, the Board of Directors at Malet Lambert and the Board of Directors for South Hunsley School and Hunsley Primary, have agreed to establish a new Multi-Academy Trust partnership that will commence from 1 January 2016. The relationship between the schools in the Trust will be one of equal partners with a common goal, working under shared guiding principles, drawing on each other's strengths in order to overcome any weakness and respond robustly to any challenges.

This collaboration will bring significant benefits as two strong, successful, over-subscribed secondary schools and a new primary free school work together more closely in a small, local, supportive Multi-Academy Trust which has student aspiration at its heart. The three schools will each bring their own separate strong identities, ethos and values to the partnership and work together to develop a strong educational offer that will enable all schools to achieve their shared goal of giving students the best possible chances to reach their potential.

Benefits include:

- sharing best practice in teaching and learning leading to improved outcomes for students
- joint training and development of staff at all levels that will lead to a richer experience for students and staff
- develop and challenge leaders and retain talented staff in the trust
- shared expertise in HR, finance, governance and estates, allowing schools to focus rigorously on teaching and learning and student support

The Trust's Board will ensure that the schools can access services in a more efficient way and each school will retain its own Local Governing Body whose membership will continue to include parents, staff and members of the local community.

In the Spring Term, we will begin the process of recruiting a new Head of School for Malet Lambert whose role it will be to maintain the unique ethos and values of our school and to ensure that all young people at Malet Lambert are as successful as they can possibly be.

We attach an initial question and answer sheet for your information. This information is also posted on our website and you can submit any further questions about this partnership via Malet Lambert's website or in writing to Elaine Johansson. The FAQs will be regularly updated as questions are received and we will reissue an updated question and answer sheet before Christmas.

Yours faithfully

Ann Barker
Chair of Board of Directors
Malet Lambert

