



NINESTILES
ACADEMY TRUST

14 December 2016

Dear Parent, Guardian or Carer

I am writing to inform you about an important development. You may be aware that, for some time now, Ninestiles Academy Trust and The Sixth Form College Solihull have been holding lengthy discussions with the view to merge in a new pioneering partnership.

In October last year, the Government also recommended the Trust and College join together following a review of Further Education in Birmingham and Solihull. Yesterday, at separate meetings, the Boards of both the College and the Trust voted to continue with the merger process and to move forward to the next stage. They will now jointly submit a formal application to the Department for Education, requesting the College both converts to Academy status and also joins the Trust. This is subject to due process and consultation. The merger, if approved by the Department for Education, is expected to take place on 01 August 2017.

I strongly believe that this is an incredibly positive development for the Trust, and would enable us the unique opportunity to educate children from the very start of their academic career right up until they are 19 years old. This means we would be able to truly develop each and every one of our children as they progress through each stage of their academic journey, allowing us the ability to nurture and develop their own individual brilliance.

We are confident that, with our shared vision, expertise and connections, the Trust and the College would be able to work together to transform opportunities for young people. Our partnership would mean we would be able to deliver our students access to specialist staff, facilities and a curriculum that no school working in isolation would be able to sustain. The College, a specialist provider in A-level, BTEC and CACHE education, provides one of the widest range of courses in the region, with more than 40 on offer. In 2013, Ofsted rated the College as 'Good' overall, with 'Outstanding' features. Our students would also benefit from the Trust and College's combined strong community, business and higher education links.

If the Department for Education approves this merger, it would mark a milestone moment for the Trust as we continue to grow and prosper, building a network providing an integrated education offer to children and young people in Birmingham and Solihull.

I look forward to continue sharing with you the latest news and developments as we work towards cementing this wonderful new proposed partnership.
I thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Martyn Collin
Interim CEO, Ninestiles Academy Trust