

## *A Church of England School Serving the Community*



Brantwood Road  
Wembdon  
Bridgwater  
Somerset  
TA6 7PS

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[www.wembdon-st-georges.somerset.sch.uk](http://www.wembdon-st-georges.somerset.sch.uk)

Headteacher: MRS JUDITH HEALE B.Ed  
Deputy Headteacher: MRS EMMA WEBB B.A

26<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

We are very pleased to announce that, subject to satisfactory completion of statutory consultation, we will be joining the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust. We are very excited by the opportunities this will present the school, both in terms of its educational support and Christian ethos.

### **What is an academy?**

Academies are publicly funded, independently run schools that are not managed by a local authority. They are still required to follow law and guidance concerning statutory requirements such as admissions, special educational needs and exclusions, and to collaborate and share facilities with other schools and the wider community.

The academy framework is designed to promote innovation, raise school standards and increase levels of achievement for all children. The Academies Act passed in July 2010 made it possible for all maintained schools – primary and secondary – to apply to become academies. Schools cannot acquire or remove their faith character, expand, become mixed or single sex or introduce selection as part of the conversion process.

A multi academy trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee. All academies in a multi academy trust are governed by one trust and a single board of directors. The board is responsible for decisions relating to how each academy is run. The BWMAT will establish a Local Governing Body for each of its academies, to which it will delegate some of its functions, although the BWMAT remains accountable for these functions.

Once established, academies are funded directly by central government instead of receiving funds via a local authority.

### **Why become an academy?**

Converting to academy status will provide increased autonomy, along with the ability to learn and share best practice with other successful schools. It recognises the shift in power from local authorities to schools.

### **What are the benefits we envisage for Wembdon St George's?**

- Highly experienced support network and the sharing of good practice with other successful schools.
- Shared values and ethos.
- Maintain the unique character of our school.
- Maintain our established partnership with the Diocese and with our Church School Foundations.

We are hoping to convert on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017. We do not anticipate any significant changes in the day-to-day running of the school.

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017, we will be holding two meetings for parents and carers, at 2.00pm and 6.00pm, and we hope that these meetings will answer any questions you may have. Both sessions will be the same, but we are holding the meeting twice to give as many of you the opportunity to attend as possible. Each meeting should last no longer than 45 minutes.

Please complete the slip below, indicating whether you plan to attend one (or both) of the meetings. If you have a question that you wish to be asked on your behalf, but you can't attend a meeting or you would like your question to be anonymous, please include this on the return slip. The presentation used at the meetings will be available on the school website.



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Please return all slips by the end of school on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017. If you do not plan to attend, you do not need to return the slip. If you have any questions about the meetings, please contact the school office.

For further information on the Bath & Wells MAT, please go to: [www.bwmat.org](http://www.bwmat.org)

Yours sincerely

The Governing Body of Wembdon St George's CE VC Primary School

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Wembdon St George's CE VC Primary School

*Please delete as applicable:*

I/We will be attending the meeting about conversion to an academy on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 2:30 pm

I/We will be attending the meeting about conversion to an academy on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 6:00 pm

I/We would like the following question/s to be asked on my/our behalf: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

