



Dear parents and carers,

We are writing to inform you that, after careful consideration, the governing body of South Wirral High School are seeking to convert to an academy and to join The Challenge Academy Trust. We have been granted an academy order by the Department for Education, giving permission to start this process.

In seeking to convert to an academy, our priority is to ensure we continue to provide a high-quality education for our students. We believe joining an academy trust will enable us to collaborate with other schools, be challenged and supported to drive improvement, and will enable the school to benefit from significant capital investment.

We have chosen The Challenge Academy Trust (<https://www.tcat.uk.com>) because we have worked closely with them for the last 18 months, during which time we have seen that the Trust has strong governance, an ethical approach and considerable capacity to support its schools. It is a group of 5 secondary schools, 6 primary schools and a Sixth Form College with a mission statement to “serve, challenge and empower” its schools.

Before proceeding with the conversion, there will be a formal consultation in which we invite you to share your views and ask any questions you may have. The consultation period for parents will run from **Tuesday September 26th to Tuesday October 31st**. There are a number of ways you can take part in this consultation: You can send it comments and questions via consultation@southwirral.wirral.sch.uk or you can complete the Google Form that has been set up on the MAT Consultation page of our school website here - <https://southwirral.wirral.sch.uk/MATconsultation>

You are also invited to attend a consultation meeting in school on **Wednesday October 18th at 5pm**. The meeting will consist of a short presentation by the Headteacher and Chair of Governors and an opportunity to ask questions. If you are unable to attend this meeting, governors will make themselves available to you for a conversation at another time. Again, please email consultation@southwirral.wirral.sch.uk if you would like to talk to a governor.

We'd like to invite you to read through our answers to FAQs about this consultation, which you can find on our website at <https://southwirral.wirral.sch.uk/MATconsultation>. We will be looking to regularly update this area of the school website with any further questions that have been asked, and their answers.

This is an exciting opportunity to shape our future and continue to drive the best outcomes for our students. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us as detailed above with any comments and questions you may have.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Simon Goodwin Mr Richard Barker

Headteacher Chair of Governors