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Executive Headteacher  
Mrs Hannah Broom BA(Hons) NPQH

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Hi,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well and looking forward to a break over the Christmas period.

I wanted to provide you with a brief update on the progress with academisation. Since my last update the following has happened:

- Rowan Learning Trust completed their due diligence on both schools
- We have completed the reverse due diligence on Rowan Learning Trust

There were no items brought up or observed in the due diligence process that caused any concern for us or them. As such the proposal was taken forward by Rowan Learning Trust and approved by their Trustees.

- Mr David, Mrs Broom and the leadership team completed a Strength, Weakness, Threats and Opportunities (SWOT) analysis to provide a generalised overview of the academisation approach.
- Mrs Catherall completed an initial review of the financial impact on the schools
- Governors reviewed and discussed the outcome of Due Diligence, SWOT Analysis and Financial analysis at our meeting on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

**As a result of this discussion, and considering all known information, observations, feedback, and discussions, Governors unanimously agreed to move forward to the next step of the academisation process.**

As mentioned on previous updates, this is still a journey, with several steps yet to be completed. What will happen now is:

- The Regional School's Commissioner will consider the applications at the Advisory Board in February 2022.
- The Trust will appoint solicitors to carry out the final phases of conversion.
- The Trust and the schools will work closely together to ensure we are prepared for the agreed conversion date, which will be confirmed after February's board.

Between now and February there will be little visible impact or updates regarding the process. As such, I don't envisage providing any further updates until the outcome of the Advisory Board meeting in February.

However, as usual, should you have any questions or queries then please don't hesitate to get in touch; [queries@acornswitleyfed.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:queries@acornswitleyfed.cheshire.sch.uk)

Thank you for your continued support in this exciting development for Whitley. Stay safe over the festive period, have a wonderful time with your families and I look forward to updating you more in the new year.

Best Wishes

Key

Kevin Unsworth

Chair of Governors

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