

May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

We are consulting on a proposed change to the governance of Holyrood Academy which would mean that it would leave the Vector Learning Trust and join Uffculme Academy Trust.

### **When would this change take place?**

The proposed change would take place in the summer term ready for September 2019. The date we are currently working towards is July 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.

### **Why is this change being proposed?**

The change is being proposed because we believe that joining Uffculme Academy Trust will bring significant benefits to the students and staff at Holyrood Academy

Currently Holyrood is in a partnership with Axe Valley Academy called Vector Learning Trust. However there are a number of reasons why this partnership is not able to continue in its current form mostly relating to the way in which our schools are currently funded. This means that it has been necessary to look to join with another Multi-Academy Trust and the Trustees have chosen Uffculme Academy Trust as the best fit for our schools.

The proposal is therefore that both Holyrood Academy and Axe Valley Academy will join Uffculme Academy Trust.

### **Why Uffculme Academy Trust?**

We believe that Uffculme Academy Trust provides an excellent opportunity to ensure that Holyrood Academy continues to thrive and improve for a number of reasons:

- Uffculme School is widely regarded as one of the best schools, not just in the region, but nationally and is regularly the top performing Comprehensive school in both Somerset and Devon. It has been rated Outstanding by Ofsted for many years.
- The Chief Executive of the Trust, Lorraine Heath is a National Leader of Education and has a national reputation for delivering school improvement.



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**Martin Brook**  
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Vice Principals  
**Sam Davison**  
BA Hons, MA

Director of Finance  
**Tina Coles**  
DSBM

Director of Sixth Form  
**Dave MacCormick**  
B.Sc Hons, M.Ed



Lorraine was recently awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours List in recognition of her services to education

- The Trust has a designated teaching school based at Uffculme which gives us access to a wide range of training and development opportunities
- The Trust includes a primary school, Uffculme Primary which is a thriving, oversubscribed village primary school and which has undergone significant improvement since being part of Uffculme Academy Trust
- Uffculme is in a strong position financially
- Uffculme Academy Trust has a well-established Board of Trustees with a strong skill set and a range of expertise including financial, HR and educational specialisms
- Like Holyrood, Uffculme works in a mixed rural and urban catchment area
- Uffculme has a culture and ethos which matches our own with, in particular, an emphasis on strong relationships and inclusion.
- Uffculme has a reputation of being a good employer with a well-regarded wellbeing package for staff

### What will be different?

It is very unlikely that the students, parents and local community of Holyrood Academy will see any immediate changes as a result of this proposal. However as it is our intention that joining Uffculme will help us to better fulfil our aims to provide excellent education for our communities future benefits could be:

- Improved recruitment and retention of teachers
- Improvements in the quality of teaching and learning and training opportunities for staff
- Better examination results
- Financial savings through economies of scale
- Greater opportunities for students to participate in enrichment activities

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## How can I find out more?

You are welcome to email any comments or questions about the proposal to Lorraine Heath via her PA, Mrs Elizabeth Mitchell at [mitchell@uffculmeschool.net](mailto:mitchell@uffculmeschool.net) . Please mark your email UAT consultation

There will also be an opportunity to meet Lorraine Heath and other members of Uffculme Academy Trust on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 4.45pm at Holyrood.

The consultation will close on Friday June 14<sup>th</sup> after which all comments will be considered by both the Trustees of Vector Learning Trust and Uffculme Academy Trust.

Martin Brook Vector Learning Trust

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