



NOTTINGHAM  
FREE SCHOOL

18 March 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

These are exciting but challenging times in education. One way in which schools can meet these challenges is by working in partnership with other schools. Your child currently attends a school that works in partnership with a number of other Nottinghamshire schools. These schools are now proposing to form a brand new Multi-Academy Trust (MAT), called Nova Education Trust.

If successful, Nova Education Trust will be formed by merging the Torch Academy Gateway Trust, Djanogly Learning Trust, Nottingham University Samworth Academies Trust and the Nottingham University Academy of Science and Technology Trust. The proposal is that this new MAT, comprising 6 secondary schools and 4 primary schools, will begin operating from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016.

### **Why are the trusts merging?**

The four Education Trusts involved have been education partners since 2014, during which time it has become clear that each Trust has different skills and specialisms. By merging the Trusts, we can plan long term developments that will directly benefit all of our pupils, by improving standards of teaching and widening the range of enrichment opportunities on offer.

### **How will it affect my local school?**

The merger of the four Trusts is about bringing together professional skills, ideas and good practice at all levels. Individual schools will continue to make their own decisions about how best to serve their own pupils. School names, uniforms, school days and holiday patterns for example, will be unaffected.

What will happen in schools is that teaching and support staff will have better access to central support services, opportunities to access the very best staff training and a wider support network of fellow professionals. Teachers will contribute to, and benefit from collaborative efforts to produce high quality teaching resources and assessment tools.

The merger would also support the development of a wider range of enrichment opportunities for students through sporting competitions, creative collaborations and access to a breadth of academic providers beyond that of a single institution.



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By being part of the Nova Education Trust you will have the peace of mind that your child's school is being supported by a local trust that is totally committed to raising education standards in Nottinghamshire.

### **Consultation Period**

As part of the proposed merger, we are undertaking an 8-week consultation process.

This process will provide all interested parties with the opportunity to comment on the proposed formation of the Nova Education Trust.

The consultation period will run from 21<sup>st</sup> March to 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016. During this time your response can be submitted via our website:

[www.novaeducationtrust.net](http://www.novaeducationtrust.net)

or sent by post to the following address:

Nova Education Trust  
Consultation Response  
Toot Hill School  
The Banks  
Bingham  
NG13 8BL

We will publish the findings of the consultation on this website after the 27th May 2016.

A copy of this letter and the consultation form can also be found on our school website [www.nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk](http://www.nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk) under the Information-Letters to parents section.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Chair of Governors: Mr K Ghattaora  
Head of School: Mrs J Brown

