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13th July 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

We wrote to you February informing you that the Governors of the school had decided that we should seek to join a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). Governors have spent the last five months in discussions with a number of MATs. This work involved visiting schools and speaking to staff and pupils in those schools about their experience in an academy and as part of a MAT.

After a full and thorough process, Governors have now decided to pursue formal discussions with the Co-operative Academies Trust (CAT).

This decision was made at the Full Governing Board meeting of Wednesday 5th July 2017. Fifteen of the twenty governors were present at the meeting. Of these fifteen Governors, fourteen Governors voted to join CAT and one Governor abstained.

We have contacted the Department for Education and lodged an expression of interest in converting to an Academy. We have also informed the Local Authority (Salford City Council) of our decision.

We now enter into a phase called 'due diligence' which allows both us and CAT to ensure that both organisations are able to work together securely both with regards to values and financially. As part of this process there will be a consultation process with you and I will contact you when this is formalised.

I include below some of the frequently asked questions on this process. If you have any concerns you would like to raise then please use the email address academyquestions@walkdenhigh.co.uk

What will it mean for us?

The Governors and senior leaders of Walkden High School are always seeking ways in which to make the school even better. We have a very stable Senior Leadership Team and Governing Board. We believe that this decision is a way of improving our school and staying in control of our ethos and culture.

The main changes will be to the way the school is governed. The school will retain its own Governing Board. At the moment, this is held to account by the Local Authority. The change will mean that it is a Multi Academy Trust that holds the Governing Board to account. The Trust will oversee the achievements of any schools in the Trust, and they will step in if they deem it to be necessary to bring about improvements for pupils.

I will keep you informed of any developments regarding this change to our school.

Yours faithfully,

Mr S.D. Lennox
Headteacher

At Walkden High School we encourage pupils to respect the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

