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Dear parents and carers

MAT decision

As you know, Batheaston's governing body, along with that of other local primary schools, decided that it was necessary for the school to become an academy and join a Multi-Academy Trust, or MAT.

The two options for the school were to join either the Palladian Academy Trust or the Bath and Wells Primary MAT.

What was the process?

Before Easter, we held meetings with parents, and all staff, to listen to the concerns and priorities of the school community. We also circulated a Q&A sheet. The main concerns were:

- how do we best protect the ethos of Batheaston and enhance it?
- can we continue to work with our local partner schools?
- what are the financial implications?
- how do we best improve the learning opportunities for children at Batheaston?

After Easter, we held meetings/discussions with both Palladian and Bath and Wells. We also put to them those concerns and priorities.

What was the decision?

The Governing Body voted unanimously to approach the Bath and Wells MAT, to join their 'Bath hub' of similar and like-minded primary schools.

What were the reasons for the decision?

The Governing Body agreed that the Bath and Wells MAT offers

- excellent support for primary school improvement, including school-to-school support.
- very well developed and resourced support for other aspects of school management, like financial systems, HR support, and estates management.
- a good fit for the ethos of Batheaston
- emphasizes the importance of individual school identity and ethos within the MAT.
- offers the opportunity to develop our existing networks with local partner schools. This will enrich the professional development of staff and school improvement.

What happens next?

Our application to join the Bath and Wells MAT will be considered by the Department for Education, in the next few weeks.

As part of this process, the school and the B&W MAT will hold a number of meetings with school staff, and exchange information about the school and the MAT in preparation for joining.

This process normally takes several months. The general election has led to a backlog of applications, so the process may take even longer in the case of Bath schools (including Batheaston).

Questions or concerns?

We will keep the school community updated with further developments as they happen.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do email school, with a subject line 'for the attention of the governors'.

Or you can find governors who are parents at drop-off or pick-up (our photos are now on the notice board on the left as you come through the school gate).

The governors are confident that the move to join the Bath and Wells MAT is the right one. Behind the scenes, this feels like a big step for Batheaston.

However, we strongly believe that this is an opportunity for positive change, growth and development for Batheaston, and we will work hard for it to benefit all the children at school.

Batheaston governing body