



Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear Parents,

I am sure you will all remember my previous correspondence with regards to the school's conversion to an Academy back in the Autumn Term. I did stipulate that in the New Year, I would inform you all of the progress towards conversion.

As a school, we have continued to liaise very closely with John Taylor Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) to ensure that the school's conversion to Academy status runs as smoothly as possible. The office staff and I have been working hard to provide a considerable amount of information about our school to the MAT including: financial details, contract information, curriculum matters, Governance meetings and all of our policies, to name just a few! It is important that the JTMAT learn everything about our school prior to us joining the Trust.

Since we have finally submitted all of the relevant information, we now hope that the school will become part of the JTMAT on either 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 or (what is probably more likely) 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018. As I have mentioned previously, this conversion to Academy will have no significant impact on you, as parents, or indeed our children as an immediate change. The school's name, the uniform and the daily routines will remain exactly the same as they have been.

However, the most significant change that parents will notice is what happens to your child once they leave our school and transfer to secondary education. By joining the JTMAT, the crucial point to note is that all pupils attending Shobnall Primary School will be **prioritised** a place at either John Taylor Free School or John Taylor Academy.

A further element of the conversion that I would like to share with you is that we will have slightly more ownership over our own admissions into school. From listening to many parents over the past eighteen months, it is clear that a significant number are concerned that the school admits six additional pupils in to Year 3. This can, and does, change dynamics with friendships and the environment for learning, by increasing the number of pupils to 36 in Key Stage 2. Therefore, the decision has been made that the school will no longer admit these additional children into Year 3 so that the maximum number of children in every class remains at 30. Mrs Ruth Urquhart, one of our Governors, has conducted a significant amount of research into this. We have learnt that Shobnall Primary School is within 0.9% of the country, with regards to teaching class sizes of 36 or more. Therefore, the Governing Body has made the decision that these class sizes no longer meet the needs of our children. We anticipate that these changes to numbers will commence September 2019 and will eventually filter throughout Key Stage 2. If you would like to view this detailed report constructed by Mrs Urquhart, please ask for a copy at the school office. It is worth noting that admissions in to our Nursery and Reception class will still remain with Staffordshire County Council.

Should you have any further questions or queries about the school's conversion to an Academy or indeed about the change in KS2 class sizes then please do not hesitate to speak to me.

Yours sincerely

Mr. R. Cruise  
Headteacher (*on behalf of the Governing Body*)



International  
School Award

*"Happy children. inspired learners"*

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