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'LEARNING FOR LIFE, SECURING SUCCESS'

01 July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Ormiston SWB Academy conversion

I am writing to inform you of some very important and positive news, which follows up on a letter I wrote to you in January. Following communications and engagement with the Governing Body, parents/carers, staff and the local community, South Wolverhampton & Bilston Academy (SWB) will on 1 July 2017, officially join the Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT) family, becoming **Ormiston SWB Academy**.

We would like to thank our current sponsor, the City of Wolverhampton Academy Trust (COWAT), who have provided us with much direction and support over the last eight years. This has culminated in SWB Academy being hugely over-subscribed and achieving our best ever results for both GCSE and A level in 2016 when overall GCSE results and A level results were in line with or above the national average. Indeed, 100% of students applying to university gained a place at their first-choice institution.

We are ambitious to become an outstanding academy and believe that our new sponsor, Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT), will be an integral part of our journey. OAT also achieved record GCSE and A level results in 2016 and there is huge potential for us to access wide support and expertise from across a large Trust which matches our ethos and values and which already has a strong footprint in the West Midlands and Head Office in Birmingham.

Retaining our own unique identity whilst becoming part of OAT, Ormiston SWB Academy will continue to build positive community links, as well as working in collaboration with those other academies in the West Midlands (Central and West) and with the wider OAT support network. We believe that being part of OAT will provide new and unprecedented opportunities for our academy community; being part of a wider network of 30+ academies will provide many benefits, bring many enrichment opportunities to our students and development opportunities for our staff.

Becoming an OAT academy will allow us to continue our determination to provide first-class education for our students and enable us to further review practice and provision to see where further developments can be made. We have already established a broad, balanced and creative curriculum to meet the needs of students and being part of OAT will allow us the freedom to develop this further for our students. We remain committed to our vision of '*Learning for Life, Securing Success*,' ensuring that our students achieve the best possible qualifications whilst also nurturing and encourage them to embrace new opportunities and develop their personal skills enabling them to have happy and successful lives.

The only noticeable changes after 1 July 2017 will be a slight change to our branding (logo), new signage in and around the academy and an updated website featuring our new sponsor, OAT. We would also like to reassure you that there are no plans **to change the school day, and the uniform featuring the new logo will be phased in gradually so there is no need for parents to replace existing uniform.**

We hope you will join us in feeling very positive about this exciting new chapter in our academy's story. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy reception and for more information about OAT visit www.ormistonacademiestrust.co.uk

Yours sincerely

Alex Hopkins, Chair of Governors

Kerry Inscker, Principal