



# Chew Valley School

Learn Grow Achieve

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29 September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

## Developing a multi-academy relationship between schools in our area

We wrote to you in April this year outlining our plans to join the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (see attached letter).

We are now starting the formal process of consultation with stakeholders of which parents and carers are clearly very important. You are invited to a meeting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm. Brian Wibberley, Chair of Governors, Gareth Beynon, Headteacher, and Gary Lewis, CEO of Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP), will give detailed presentations and will be available afterwards to answer any questions you might have.

We believe that this move will have a great many benefits for our students and will enable us to work with other highly regarded secondary schools to share expertise in all areas of school life, whilst at the same time maintaining all of the attributes that make Chew Valley School special. We have been working closely on this project with our feeder primary schools in the Chew Valley and most are also in the process of considering joining LSP. This will enable us to focus fully on education from the ages of four to eighteen in an even more effective manner. The Primaries involved are Chew Magna, Bishop Sutton, East Harptree C of E, Pensford, Stanton Drew, Ubley and Winford C of E. We hope to join LSP in February 2018 with the cluster primary schools joining us later.

The current members of LSP are Gordano School and five primary schools in Portishead and Portbury. A Backwell hub, which includes Backwell School and nine primary schools in the Backwell area, will also join LSP. Further hubs may join in the future.

Each school within Lighthouse Schools Partnership retains its own individuality, ethos and values. There will be little difference in the day to day running of our school and we will be maintaining our own strong identity. The structure of the leadership team here would also remain essentially the same with the Headteacher making operational decisions and sharing the strategic leadership with our Governing Body. We will also benefit from shared planning and services with other schools and the challenge on standards that working with the LSP will bring.

We have created an Academy Consultation page on our website

<http://www.chewvalleyschool.co.uk/Development-of-a-Multi-Academy-Hub-in-the-Chew-Val/> where you will find some further information on our proposal and our FAQs document. You may also wish to send comments or questions to our clerk to Governors, Julie Seeley, [jseeley@chewvalleyschool.co.uk](mailto:jseeley@chewvalleyschool.co.uk). All questions (identities not included) and answers will be published on the website. The governors will review all questions and responses to the consultation before they make a final decision on the issue. The consultation period will end on 01 November 2017.

We look forward to engaging with you in exploring this very important step for our school.

Yours sincerely,

Gareth Beynon  
Headteacher

Brian Wibberley  
Chair of Governors