Monday 27th March 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will already be aware, the school’s Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body have been researching the potential future direction and status of Dormansland School for the past fourteen months.

The current national agenda for education makes it clear that, in light of diminishing Local Authority control, resources and services, it is increasingly necessary for schools to forge partnerships and collaborative practice to develop and sustain school improvement.

The Governing Body has been considering whether to apply for Dormansland School to join an established Academy Trust. We have considered a range of options, and have met with representatives from a variety of these, in order to consider what they can offer our school.

After careful consideration, the Governing Body has resolved unanimously to apply to become an academy as part of the Temple Grove Academy Trust (TGAT). We are now starting to work directly with the Trust to develop our proposals and to build on our existing relationship with them, having already established a highly effective enrichment programme together this year.

Central to every stage of our research has been the consideration of what is best for the children and families of Dormansland School. It is our overwhelming belief that, by joining TGAT, we will be able to secure the best possible provision for all of our children, in addition to the enrichment opportunities that already enhance their learning. All of us believe that this is a genuinely exciting new direction for the school, which will enable us to retain our distinctive ethos, vision and values.

This letter and the accompanying information sheet are intended to keep you fully up to date with our plans for the school’s future, which we hope that you find helpful in shaping any questions that you might have for us. There will, of course, be a full consultation process for parents in the summer term, as per the DfE requirements during an academy conversion. We look forward to discussing this collaboration with some of you at our informal Q&A evenings this week and during further meetings in the summer, when we hope that you will agree with us that this is a really exciting new phase for our school.

If you would like to take a look at the Temple Grove Academy website, you can follow this link: http://www.tgacademytrust.com/. Alternatively, if you have a question but are unable to make it to either of the sessions in school this week, please do not hesitate to contact me at my usual email address.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Stokes