



31st March 2023

Dear Parents and families,

I am writing to you to provide an update on the work undertaken in the Autumn term in relation to Academy conversion. I have attempted to write this letter to you all many times and each time I have, something has changed – thus the considerable delay in updating you.

As you will recall we consulted our community for over six weeks in the Autumn term in relation to joining the Compass Partnership of Schools. Our Staff body, including their unions, felt that with the current pressures on the education system this was a good option, and feel secure that this Multi-Academy Trust shares our Values and commitment to education and communities. An overwhelming majority of our Parents understood and support the rationale behind this idea and also have some knowledge of other schools within Greenwich that are part of this Trust, which provided further confidence. Thus as The consultation closed the results were clear – Boxgrove and Kidbrooke Park Primary Schools, along with KPLC and the DSP should join the Compass Partnership of Schools.

As you will likely appreciate there was some contention amongst various political based groups, who do not know our schools and the current pressures on the education system, and thus I took much time working through these concerns. After which I submitted all of the necessary paperwork and I am pleased to say the Secretary of State has agreed to the conversions.

We have since consulted again with staff as per the normal process, as their employer will change from the Royal Borough of Greenwich to Compass, and are now working with the Royal Borough of Greenwich to ensure the process through to final Conversion is as seamless as possible. We hope this will take place on 1st June 2023. It is important to note that very little change will take place on this date, it will just relate to the legal status of the Schools. After this date, very little change is expected as key policies, timetables and even term dates are already very similar.

I am sure many of you would like to know more about the Compass Partnership of Schools, below is some key information – and you can find their website here: [The Compass Partnership - Home \(compassps.uk\)](https://www.compassps.uk)

The Compass Partnership of Schools is a charitable trust of 11 schools that work as one to achieve the very best for all children and all communities. We aim to inspire all children to engage confidently with the world and develop the knowledge and skills from across the curriculum that enable them to thrive. By working as one, we maximise the knowledge and skills of all the adults in our schools. We share the very best practice and learning from the research that will make a difference to the progress and achievement of all children.

Compass is optimistic for the future, ambitious for all, and focused on building individual and collective resilience. We aim to support children in becoming confident and responsible citizens who contribute positively to society in a manner that maximises their strengths and helps build a better tomorrow. We want children to know that they can be the change makers, both now and in the future.

Our schools are committed to providing a fully inclusive environment for learning that actively promotes social justice and equity, empowering all to achieve. We create cognitively challenging contexts for learning and build deep and rich knowledge, through precise and direct teaching approaches. The Compass Curriculum is ambitious, challenging and creative, carefully sequencing knowledge so that children are supported in building a deep understanding across all subject areas. We believe in the importance of providing a high-quality experience of the arts and physical education as part of a curriculum that builds health and well-being individually and collectively.



Executive Headteacher Ms Holly Broughton
Head of School Mr Adam Wilson

We value and promote the ethos of each school, ensuring it is firmly at the heart of its community. As a civic trust we understand the important role we play in our local context and seek to build rich connections with local organisations and community groups. Through collaboration, we seek to build on the strengths that exist within our schools so that our collective intellectual capital benefits our broader Compass community.

Compass is community-centred and community-engaged. We aim to be the best we can possibly be for every community we serve and to realise the aspirations held for every young person who learns with us.

HISTORY OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The group started life as a partnership arrangement between Deansfield Primary and Willow Dene School in June of 2011. The Headteacher of Deansfield, John Camp, became the Executive Headteacher of both schools and oversaw the improvements that needed to be made at Willow Dene. As a result of the tremendous success of the partnership and the rapid transformation at Willow Dene, the partnership extended to South Rise Primary School in February 2012, Horn Park in April 2013, Halstow in September 2014, and Wingfield and Alderwood in September 2015.

Today, the Compass Partnership of Schools is led by John Camp, as Chief Executive Officer, with his Leadership Team. Compass is a charitable trust of nine primary schools one junior and one all-through special school. The schools are based in the Royal Borough of Greenwich, and in Braintree and Clacton in Essex, and work very closely together to raise standards of provision and attainment for over 3000 children. These schools are at the heart of contrasting communities and achieve highly, regardless of context. We have a shared vision and set of values that underpin all that we do, with a central focus on creative, innovative and engaging teaching that develops a love and interest in learning. We craft meaningful contexts for learning that actively engage children in rich dialogic tasks, developing key skills for independence, confidence and resilience.

FROM PARTNERSHIP TO CHARITABLE TRUST

We became a multi-academy trust on 1st July 2017 under the same name. In January 2022 we welcomed Cann Hall, John Ray Junior, Notley Green and Shalford Primary Schools to our Trust. The Compass Partnership of Schools will retain its identity as a group and will continue to protect the unique characteristics of each of our schools. We firmly believe that collaboration should not equate to 'sameness'. We celebrate diversity in all its forms, and whilst there are some very clear consistencies across our schools, these do not undermine their individuality. We are clear that we need to be consistent about the right things, quality and integrity.

COMPASS PARTNERSHIP FACTS

We are a growing Partnership of schools. To date we are:

11 schools, 12 sites, 2 geographical areas, 4000 pupils and over 900 staff.

The current pressures on the educational landscape are intolerable, but I have always believed in the human ability to 'weather storms'. I hope you will see, as we do as a staff, that this change in legal status, with the various support networks it can tether us with, will ensure our schools continue to be great, and even better, community focussed places of educational excellence for pupils.

Thank you all for your continued support, patience and I wish you all a fabulous Easter break. As ever please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Kind Regards

Holly Broughton

Executive Headteacher
Boxgrove and Kidbrooke Park Primary schools, KPLC and DSP.