



Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019

### **Academisation Update**

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the Hunters Bar Junior and Infant Community,

A little over a year ago, Hunters Bar Schools began working with three other local schools (Dobcroft Infants, Dore and Greystones) to investigate how we could form a multi academy trust (MAT) together and to develop an application that could be submitted to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC).

During this time, much has changed in the educational world, including the financial threshold that new MATs need to meet. Proposed MATs now need to demonstrate a significantly longer-term balanced budget, alongside clear governance, curriculum and administrative direction. Our school heads and chairs of governors have worked together closely to determine how this could be addressed. The benefits of collaborating more closely by progressing this MAT project have had to be weighed against significant current funding challenges affecting UK education generally and Sheffield schools in particular. The financial envelope available to us in the current school budgets do not allow the scope to produce a viable business plan for a MAT.

In this context, our Heads and Chairs of Governors have jointly decided that it is not realistic to take this project any further forward.

Working together has been incredibly valuable in terms of exploring our shared values and vision for primary education in Sheffield. We are proud of our schools and will continue to work closely together to support our current and future pupils and wider school communities. Your support, questions and contributions help us make sure that we preserve what we do well and find ways to keep helping all of the Hunters Bar children reach their full potential so do get in touch with your comments and queries.

Yours Sincerely,

Laura Fitzgerald, Chair of Governors HBIS

Nicky Peck, Chair of Governors HBJs

Catherine Carr, Headteacher HBIS

Michael Watson, Headteacher HBJs