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Mr G Sterry, Headteacher

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13 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

### Joining Oak Trees Multi-Academy Trust

You will be aware that Ridgeway High School has been improving rapidly over the last few years. Our progress was recognised by Rebecca Sharples, His Majesty's Inspector, who carried out a monitoring visit of the school in May 2023. Her feedback letter stated:

"You and your leadership team are unwavering in your desire to make Ridgeway High School a good school. You are doing the right things at the right time. Leaders' plans accurately identify where the school needs to improve further, and you have been steadfast in maintaining a rapid pace of improvement."

You can read the feedback letter in full [on the Ofsted page of our website](#).

As we have two consecutive Requires Improvement judgements from Ofsted (November 2017 and September 2021) and as Wirral has been designated one of the country's 55 Education Investment Areas, we have been issued with an Academy Order by the Department for Education to become an academy and join Oak Trees Multi-Academy Trust.

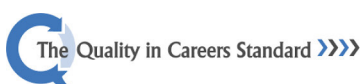
Oak Trees is a multi-academy trust (MAT) that you may be familiar with because it is Wirral-based. It is currently made up of eight primary schools, all of which are graded at least Good by Ofsted. Hilbre High School, a local secondary school, is due to join Oak Trees MAT on 1 February 2024 at the same time as us. As a school graded Good by Ofsted, they are not subject to an Academy Order.

The majority of secondary schools in Wirral are already academies. MATs like Oak Trees are designed to bring leaders together, share resources and – through collaborative approaches – add more value than a school is able to do alone.

You can find out more about Oak Trees MAT by visiting their website: [www.oaktreesmat.co.uk](http://www.oaktreesmat.co.uk). I have also included a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document as a separate attachment.

We are holding a drop-in session at Ridgeway between 4pm and 5pm on Wednesday 22 November. This is an opportunity for you to speak with representatives from Oak Trees MAT and Ridgeway and ask any questions you have or provide feedback.

I recognise that this time will not suit everybody, so we are also running a three-week engagement period





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starting on Wednesday 15 November and ending on Wednesday 6 December. You can submit questions, comments or concerns via a form that is available from school reception or send them to us via email. The address for your emails is: [MAT@ridgeway.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:MAT@ridgeway.wirral.sch.uk).

Submissions will be anonymous and all questions asked, along with responses to them, will be published by Friday 15 December.

I would like to thank you for your continued support for all that we are doing at our great school. We remain committed to providing the best education and opportunities for all of our students.

Yours faithfully

**John Weise**  
Chair of Governors