



University of
Chester
Academies
Trust

University of Chester Academies Trust
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Dear Parents and Carers,

Future of the University of Chester Academies Trust (UCAT) – and ongoing arrangements for your school.

You may be aware that UCAT has seven schools; two schools are rated Good by Ofsted, three Require Improvement and two are in the Inadequate category. The Trust and the Department for Education (DfE) had already agreed earlier this year to 're-broker' (transfer) four of its schools to other academy trusts. Following the more recent agreement with the DfE to re-broker the University Church of England Academy in Ellesmere Port, the largest school in the Trust, UCAT's board has taken the decision that the Trust cannot continue to operate financially with only two schools. It has therefore asked the DfE to re-broker all its schools, before the Trust formally winds up its activities.

The overriding focus for UCAT has always been about doing what is best to improve the education and life chances of all children in all the schools and to support local communities. UCAT's recently reconfigured Board, having established an overview, needed to plan the best way forward for the future; and have therefore reached a view that the Trust cannot continue. We are working closely with the Department for Education, to ensure that a new trust is found as quickly as possible, to assume overall responsibility for your school. Once this has been agreed, we expect to work closely with the incoming group, to make the transition as smooth as possible and ensure that your school continues to thrive and improve.

Please be assured that until any transfer is successfully completed we will continue to work to improve the opportunities and achievements for all pupils in all UCAT schools and, as ever, we value your input as parents and carers and that of the wider community.

If you have any specific questions regarding your child's education in the first instance please contact your Principal or Head of School, who has day-to-day oversight of the school.

David Cumberland
Chief Executive Officer
University of Chester Academies Trust

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