

## SAFFRON VALLEY COLLEGIATE (SVC)

### OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION TO CONVERT TO AN ACADEMY AND JOIN THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING TRUST (ALT)

#### The consultation period was 3 January – 10 February 2023

The Leadership of the PRU employed a variety of methods to reach out to stakeholders, including parents/carers, stakeholders and staff.

Some parents/carers had knowledge or experience of failing schools being ‘forced’ to join a multi-academy trust. Senior leaders were able to outline the main drivers for SVC’s proposal to convert:

- ALT shares an ethos and value base with SVC.
- It will increase our ability to drive up school standards with a comprehensive package of support, e.g. staff teaching and learning development.
- Belonging to a larger organisation will open up avenues to improving some of SVC’s facilities.
- We will be able to continue to provide a service to all Croydon schools.
- SVC will be able to bring some of its unique expertise to the Alternative Learning Trust.

Some of the individuals consulted wanted leaders to know that they already felt that this was a positive opportunity for SVC.

In addition, there were questions and concerns expressed around the following areas:

- Whether ALT would divert finances and assets away from SVC and into a central Trust reserve. The Executive Principal was able to describe how finances currently work with regards to other PRUs within ALT and explained that the Trust seeks to make the minimal ‘top slice’ and that it delegates funding to the Local Governing Boards and senior leaders for the best use of the individual alternative provision.
- Whether the conversion would prompt a restructure and loss of jobs. Any changes to SVC would be led by the management committee or Local Governing Board in response to development priorities. If this were the case, this would be independent of the conversion process and would require a separate consultation.
- Whether SVC would have the freedom to continue to serve the borough, or whether its remit would change. Clarity was provided in this regard. SVC will continue to serve all Croydon schools and all Croydon residents (regardless of which school they attend).
- Whether it would make a difference to the type of child referred to SVC. There are currently no plans to change the remit of the PRU and the nature of the cohort for which it provides education.

Staff attending the consultation meeting were able to ask some general questions regarding how the conversion might affect their employment terms and conditions. These were answered in general terms and will be addressed in more detail during the TUPE consultation.

**On 28 February 2023, the management committee reviewed a summary of the consultation outcome and voted unanimously to continue with plans for SVC to convert to an academy and join the Alternative Learning Trust.**