



# KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

## KNARESBOROUGH

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

### DEVELOPMENTS AT KING JAMES'S SCHOOL AND BOROUGHBIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

As you may have heard, King James's School is considering forming a formal partnership with Boroughbridge High School. This is a joint communication from both schools to explain why we are exploring this opportunity and to reassure you that there will be a formal consultation at the appropriate time if the Governors of both schools decide to go ahead with this change.

The two Governing Boards are working together on these proposals because we believe that forming such a partnership would offer the best means of continuing to provide a high quality, rounded and inclusive education for the young people in our communities. It would allow the schools to share expertise, combine business services, and collaborate in staff development, recruitment and the delivery of high quality teaching. In the long run, we believe that this partnership will make both our schools more viable and sustainable at a time of increasing pressure on our budgets. It would also ensure that the schools can retain their individual character, values and ethos in a rapidly changing education landscape.

The vehicle for this new partnership would be the formation of a new Multi Academy Trust. As you may know, academies are schools which are not maintained by the local authority, but set up their own governance and accountability arrangements, and are funded directly by the government. The majority of secondary schools (almost 70%) in the country are now academies and the number is continuing to increase. Whilst becoming an academy would mean our schools were no longer maintained by the local authority, we are clear that we would continue to work closely with North Yorkshire, adhere to the Admissions Code and ensure we support students of all abilities, including those with special needs.

Following some exploratory discussions, the governing bodies of the two schools are embarking upon detailed work to decide whether this is the right direction to take. This work is likely to take a number of months and will be overseen by a Steering Group drawn from both schools. We will ensure that we keep you informed as our thinking develops. If the two Governing Boards decide that it is in the best interests of both schools, their current and future students and our local communities to go ahead with the partnership, then this will be the subject of a formal consultation process, so you have an opportunity to express your views. We will write to you again at that time.

In the meantime, any questions can be directed to Elise O'Dowd (Head's PA) or [admin@king-james.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@king-james.n-yorks.sch.uk) and they will put you in touch with a senior member of staff.

Yours sincerely

Mr CA Sugden  
Headteacher

Mr A Knight  
Chair of Governors