



# Dream, Believe, Achieve



## LEAP Update 6.3.18

Mrs Davy has taken on the role of Executive Principal of Mounts Bay Academy and The Five Islands School. This role, alongside her role as LEAP CEO, will enable her time to be used strategically to move the whole of the MAT forwards.

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February, Mr Anderson visited The Five Islands School on the Isles of Scilly along with Mrs Pascoe and Mrs Davy and the Regional Schools Commissioner team. After some very valuable conversations and tours of the schools on both St Mary's and St Agnes, he is very optimistic about the potential benefits that our children will gain from working with children from the Isles of Scilly. These could include skype conversations, pen pals, the possibility of joint residential trips and much more.

Due diligence will be carried out on all 5 schools during the week beginning Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. This process includes an audit of financial records that will provide Governors with vital information that will inform their decision making.

After analysis of the Governor questionnaires that were completed during Parents' Consultation Day, the following questions and concerns were raised:

1. Staff would be distracted by partnership issues / huge administrative task and lose focus on pupils.

*Teaching staff would not have any additional administrative tasks and their attention would remain solely on the pupils of Ludgvan School. Any additional organisation for the SLT or admin staff would be directly or indirectly centred around providing additional opportunities for our children.*

2. The result would be a lowering of standards and impact negatively on the pupils  
*There is no evidence to suggest that collaboration would lower standards and we believe that working with like-minded schools would have positive impact on our standards.*

3. Concerned that this would not be in the best interests of the children  
*Every decision that we make at Ludgvan is focussed on what we believe is right for our pupils and this decision would be no different.*

4. Unclear about the process and implications for pupils and staff  
*The only change that pupils would notice is increased level of collaboration with children from other schools and additional opportunities. Staff would be able to access more formal networks of professionals, providing increased support for their role, as well as many new and exciting possibilities.*

5. Insufficient consultation and inadequate information  
*We have held two consultation meetings, one during the school day and one during the evening. We have invited questions from parents via email or appointment and this is still encouraged. The Governors have asked all parents' opinions through their Governor questionnaire. Responses and updates have been posted on the school website.*

6. Loss of autonomy – giving up the ability to make decisions for better outcomes  
*As an 'Outstanding' school within the MAT, Ludgvan would retain their own Local Governing Body who would retain operational control for the daily running and strategic direction of the school. MAT trustees would add an additional level of accountability as well as external expertise and challenge.*

7. Additional costs associated with larger organisations wiping out potential theoretical savings  
*Centralisation and provision of core services would enable Ludgvan School to focus its already reduced budget on the things that matter here in Ludgvan, thus having a greater impact on the key issues/intervention for pupils within Ludgvan school. We are still investigating the financial details as part of carrying our due diligence.*

8. Dilution of individual strengths in conforming to a larger body  
*Existing strengths would be valued rather than diluted within LEAP. This MAT is different to many others in the fact that all leaders wish to retain the individuality of their schools, whilst benefitting from what the others can offer. There is no drive to make schools conform to a set methodology, simply provide a more formal structure for schools to work together.*

9. Supporting weaker partner schools would detract from maintaining high standards  
*Mounts Bay is an 'Outstanding' school and both St Hilary and St Buryan have recently been judged as 'Good', so the Penwith based Primary and Secondary provision is very strong. The only school that would need additional support is The Five Islands School. This provides opportunities for staff, but the Governing Body and SLT would ensure that this is not at the detriment of our children, as we always do.*

10. Disruptive process, potentially stressful for staff; affecting motivation  
*The process would have almost no impact on existing members of staff and any changes would be covered by our HR and Payroll support. As previously mentioned, teaching staff are excited by the prospect of this transition.*

11. Premature decision as it is believed that the Government will change their MAT strategy soon  
*There is no evidence to suggest that the Government will change their strategy in the near future and the Regional School Commissioner is very positive about Leading Edge Academies Partnership and is keen to see it materialise.*

12. Concern that the impersonal, distanced nature of a MAT is less safe for SEN/additional needs pupils  
*We would still retain a SENDCo and all existing SEN support at Ludgvan School, but may also be able to supplement this with additional support and expertise from other schools within the MAT.*

13. Concerned that the MAT will be financially driven  
*All of our decisions are made with our children's best interest at heart. There is no financial incentive for anyone involved in the decision and our Governors will be making the decision based on a strategic and educational basis.*