



ACADEMY DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of this document is to summarise the main points of an exciting development for the School. Tomlinscote is proposing to join a recently established academy group, 'The Prospect Trust'.

Seeking your views

This document is for members of the community that support Tomlinscote School – students, their families, staff, governors, prospective parents, local employers, schools and colleges, political representatives and community groups. Reflecting this broad audience, it is deliberately general.

Our aim is to summarise the main points of an exciting development for the School. As an Academy, Tomlinscote is governed by the Surrey Heath Education Trust. The Directors of our Trust, and the Governors of the Academy, believe there is a tremendous opportunity for the Academy to become even more successful by joining a local trust. The purpose of this document, the feedback form and FAQs is to share this information and to seek the views of the community, prior to reaching a decision.

An Open Meeting is planned for 7pm on Wednesday 7 March 2018 in the Main Hall at Tomlinscote. You are welcome to attend. School and Trust representatives will summarise the main points of this development and be available to address any specific questions you may have. It would help our planning for the evening in terms of seating if you would complete this **[online registration form](#)**.

We hope that this booklet, together with the meeting, will answer any questions you may have. After the meeting, on the 7 March, we will open an online feedback form where we would welcome your views and answer any additional questions you may have.



Where we are now

Tomlinscote is a very successful school. It is judged to be 'Outstanding' by inspectors and the GCSE results in the summer of 2017 were the best in the school's history. The headline figures and the progress measures show that the education our students enjoy is excellent. Having converted to Academy status in 2013, the School has benefitted from well over £1M of building improvements and, as the examination results show, we have been able to invest to improve the day to day experience of our students.

Our Trust is keen to develop the School further and we believe that the best way to do this is by strengthening our links with other Academies. This fits very well with the government's preferred model of 'Multi-Academy Trusts' (MATs). In developing our vision, we are guided by two principles:

- All through education (4 to 19+)
- Local schools for local families

Having discussed options with a number of potential partners, the Trust believes that we now have an opportunity to become a member of an innovative new and local Trust. This will maintain the ethos and individuality of our School while providing the opportunity to benefit from a very close working relationship for the benefit of our whole community.



This new organisation is The Prospect Trust. It was established in September 2017 and it currently comprises one other Academy – The Sixth Form College Farnborough. The Trust's vision is for more local Academies, both secondary and primary, to join over time. We have been looking at the implications of this since the autumn through a 'due diligence' process. We have come to the unanimous view that this will be of immense benefit to Tomlinscote. We now want to share this with our community.

The Prospect Trust

The first partner to join The Prospect Trust is The Sixth Form College Farnborough. The College is a specialist 16-19 academy and is nationally renowned as a leading provider of post-16 education, offering a range of level 2 and 3 academic and vocational courses. It is the largest provider of A levels in the country; results in 2017 placed it in the top 10% of all schools and colleges in the country for value-added. Judged by Ofsted to be 'Outstanding', the College has powerful strengths in leadership and all aspects of educational and financial management.

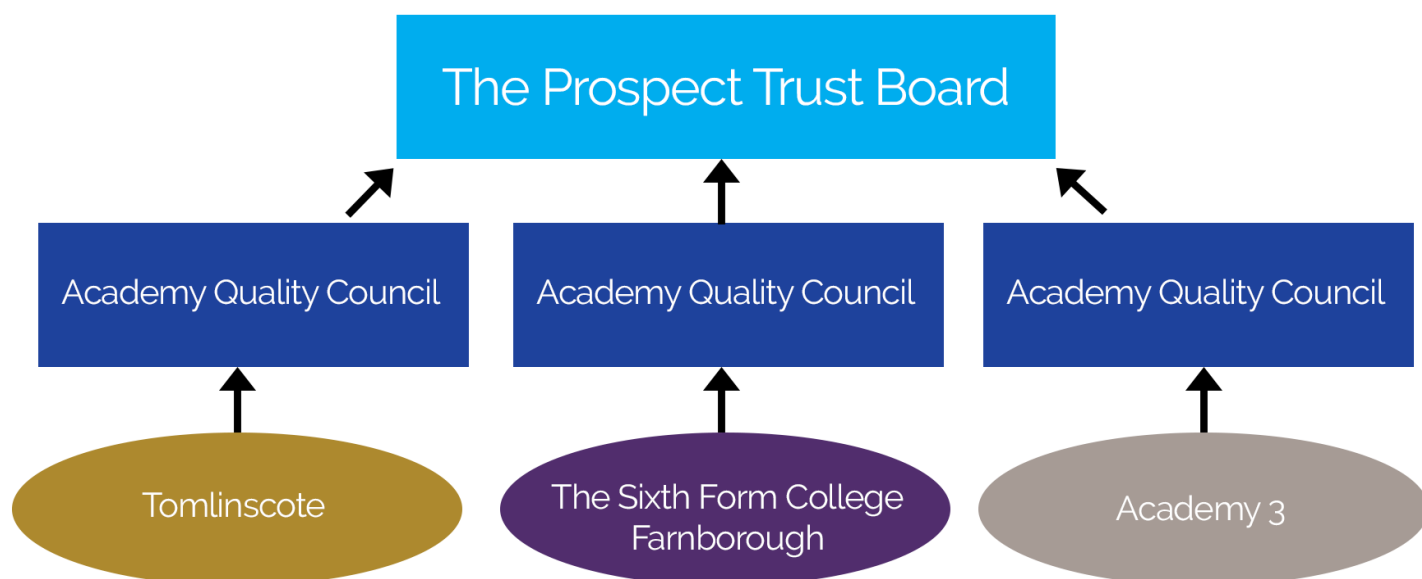
The Prospect Trust has grown from the College's long track record of success and its strong desire to make a significant, lasting contribution to improving the quality of education in the community. Our main purpose is to enable strategic collaboration between educational organisations in order to maintain and improve standards. We aspire to be the dynamo at the core of an effective, efficient educational hub; supporting, enabling and driving excellence in all its academies.

Our aim is to provide outstanding education within a family of local academies, focusing clearly on excellent, innovative teaching, learning and pastoral care for learners of all abilities. The Trust's core values are these:

- **Partnership** working together we can deliver better, and more effectively than working alone
- **Restlessness** the current state is never good enough
- **Trust** open and transparent in everything we do
- **Quality** aspire to be the best in everything we do



The Prospect Trust Governance structure:



The Prospect Trust believes that the leadership of each Academy must focus on the education it provides – the results, behaviour, guidance and pastoral care. The Trust exercises strategic leadership, provides a range of central support services and supports each Academy while holding it to account for its provision. To reflect this, the term ‘Academy Quality Council’ is used to reflect the responsibilities of the Academy’s leadership – the Principal and Councillors.



Benefits for Tomlinscote

Tomlinscote is not complacent – our next goal is to be in the top 10% of institutions nationally. We believe this can be achieved as part of The Prospect Trust by:

- **Sharing expertise between Academies** – professional development for staff and support between Academies leading to improvement
- **Improved transition between Academies** – a smoother transition to the College environment and studies for our students
- **Creating new opportunities for students and staff** – mentoring, collaboration, sharing revision, masterclasses etc.
- **Establishing a Teacher Training centre** – to ensure we recruit the very best teachers
- **Enhance staff Professional Development** – so that students make even more progress
- **Developing common learning approaches** – to the new examinations
- **Providing a robust system of quality review** – to ensure learning continues to improve
- **Generating and releasing funds** – to systematically improve equipment and buildings
- **Using our reputations to innovate and set new standards** – shaping the future, not waiting for it

What happens next?

This document marks the start of a four week window where the Academy would like to hear the views of the community. This period will begin with the publication of this document on Monday 26 February to 3pm on Friday 23 March 2018. We have also provided the answers to frequently asked questions, which can be found [here](#).

At 7pm on Wednesday 7 March, an Open Meeting will be held in the Main Hall where there will be a presentation to summarise this proposal and a chance to speak to leaders and ask questions. There will be an equivalent session for staff during school hours.

Following this meeting, an online feedback form will be available where views can be expressed and any additional questions will be answered.

At the end of the four week window, our Board will review all the information available and make a decision whether to formally ask The Prospect Trust to accept our application to join.

Following confirmation of this, a process will begin with government who will be asked to approve this decision. If approved, it is anticipated that Tomlinscote would join The Prospect Trust with effect from 1 September 2018.





Tomlinscote School and Sixth Form College
Tomlinscote Way
Frimley
Surrey
GU16 8PY

www.tomlinscoteschool.com