

5th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share an important update about the future of Pathfinder Schools and what this means for our community.

As you may be aware, in November 2023, Montsaye Academy received a Special Measures judgement from Ofsted. Following discussions with the Department for Education (DfE), it was decided that Montsaye Academy will transfer to another multi-academy trust, United Learning. This process is ongoing and we expect the transfer to take place in early in 2025.

In September 2024, Rothwell Junior School was inspected by Ofsted and received a Special Measures judgement. We share the disappointment of this outcome with the school and can assure you that the progress already made at Rothwell Junior School since the inspection continues at pace.

The DfE has indicated that they will issue a Termination Warning Notice (TWN) for Rothwell Junior School. This often leads to a school being re-brokered to another multi-academy trust, and the DfE have advised that for Rothwell Junior School re-brokering will be the likely outcome.

After careful consideration of the likely financial and operational implications of these changes, the Trustees have made the difficult decision to transfer all schools in the trust to other multi-academy trusts and close Pathfinder Schools Trust. The DfE is aware of these plans, and we are working closely with them to identify the right trusts to take our schools forward.

This decision has been taken in recognition of the need to ensure that each of our schools is part of a trust with the capacity to provide the highest level of support for pupils and staff. This decision has not been taken lightly and has been made with the best interests of the children and their education at its heart.

At this stage, we do not yet have confirmed details of the trusts that our schools will join or a timetable for when the changes will happen. However, we anticipate significant progress will be made over the remainder of this academic year.

What does this mean for you and your child?

- The transfer process will not affect the day-to-day operation of your child's school.
- Pathfinder Schools will work with the DfE and potential trusts to ensure that your school is placed in the right multi academy trust to meet its specific needs.

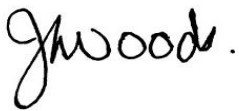
- We remain committed to providing a smooth transition with minimal disruption for children, families and staff.

We know you may have questions. We are committed to keeping you informed throughout this process and updates will be shared as more information becomes available.

Thank you for your support and understanding during this time of change. Our focus remains firmly on ensuring the best possible outcomes for your children and supporting our schools through this transition.

If you have any immediate questions or concerns, please contact your school's leadership team who will endeavour to provide you with appropriate information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Woods". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Jo Woods
Chair of Trustees, Pathfinder Schools