



14 November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

The Re-brokerage of The University Academy Warrington (UAW)

We are delighted to be able to inform you that on Wednesday 7 November The Challenge Academy Trust (TCAT) Trust Board confirmed that it is willing to become the new sponsor for UAW in place of the University of Chester Academy Trust (UCAT).

This follows a period of time when TCAT and UCAT have been in negotiation with the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) whilst also working jointly with colleagues to ensure a smooth transition.

There is still a lot of work to be completed before the transfer can be officially confirmed, but at this stage the proposed date of transfer is 1 December 2018.

What is TCAT?

The Challenge Academy Trust is a Warrington based Academy Trust consisting of:

- Beamont Collegiate Academy
- Bridgewater High School
- Great Sankey Primary School
- Penketh High School
- Penketh South Primary School
- Priestley College
- Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School

It was formed in May 2017 and its vision is:

That from early years through to adulthood, TCAT will provide exciting and inclusive opportunities for every single learner entrusted in our care. That all learners will receive an outstanding modern education, from motivated and talented staff, supported by innovative and collaborative partnerships. TCAT will provide an environment where every learner is nurtured, challenged, and inspired to achieve the very best for themselves and their communities.

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Whilst TCAT's stated mission is:

To inspire, challenge and support learners to excel in learning and in life

Over the last 18 months we have quickly earned a reputation for working in the best interests for all learners within our academies by developing a proactive School Improvement function that sees colleagues from across the Trust working collaboratively to drive up standards. Already results are showing that we are making a difference.

We have created a range of activities for learners including our TCAT Parliament, industrial links with companies such as United Utilities, Barclays and Solvay, the TCAT concert and educational visits.

The Trust has also worked hard to make efficiencies and to secure investments that ensure resources are directed where they are most needed.

As a local Trust we already have a good understanding of the issues that currently face UAW and we are confident that by working together with colleagues, learners and parents/carers we can quickly make a positive difference at the school.

What will it mean for learners and parents/carers

We are all keen to keep the disruption to the day to day running of UAW to a minimum but one thing that must change is the school's name.

To this end it is proposed that the school's name should reflect the community it serves and therefore revert to Padgate Academy as soon as the transfer occurs.

There will be no changes to the school uniform with the exception of a change to the school badge to reflect the new name. We have asked that the school works with its learners to develop a new badge and when this is approved one will be purchased on behalf of every current learner, therefore there will be no costs to parents/carers or pupils as a result of this change.

During the recent difficult months since the Government announced that it was re-brokering all of the UCAT schools colleagues at UAW/Padgate have worked tirelessly to ensure that there has been no disruption to the learners. We are committed to continue to work with UAW/Padgate to ensure a very smooth transition.

Over time we expect to deliver significant improvements in the estate at UAW/Padgate and we will continue the school's work to drive up standards, work that is already leading to improved outcomes.

We are planning to create a Local Governing Body for the school and we are keen to hear from any parents who would be interested in joining the Board.

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What will it mean for staff?

All of the teachers and business support staff who are currently employed by UCAT and based at UAW will transfer to TCAT and Padgate Academy and their contracts will be honoured in line with national policies.

Teachers and Managers at Padgate Academy will immediately have access to the TCAT School Improvement Hubs where they will work with colleagues to share best practice.

TCAT also has a Teaching School Alliance, Learning at TCAT, within our Trust. This is based at Bridgewater High School and one of its key priorities is to run a range of professional development programmes for staff and Padgate Academy colleagues will have access to the full suite of programmes on offer.

Staff will also have representation on the new Local Governing Body.

Finally

We understand that as a parent/carer or pupil at the school you may have already seen previous changes. However, we can assure you that everyone at UAW/Padgate and TCAT sees this as a positive development. We look forward to working with you to ensure that every learner achieves their full potential and is ready for future learning and/or the world of work when they move on from UAW/Padgate.

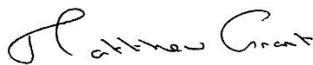
You can find more information about TCAT, our Trustees and policies on our website www.tcat.uk.com If you have any questions about this change that have not been addressed please do email them to Maria Siddall E: msiddall@uawarrington.org and we will endeavour to respond to each one and place a frequently asked question section on the school website.

We will of course keep you informed of any developments especially if the transfer date is moved back from the 1 December.

Yours sincerely



Howard Platt
Chair of the Trustees, TCAT



Matthew Grant
Chief Executive Officer, TCAT



Misia Barclay
Principal, University
Academy Warrington