



3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

### PROPOSED NEW TRUST FOR DEVON

Welcome back to the new term and a very happy New Year. We realise obtaining the right support for children and families has proved increasingly difficult post-pandemic with diminishing support being available from the Local Authority. Trusts (a single charity representing a group of schools) are often left to meet the complex needs of the most vulnerable we serve. Some of you may have personally experienced a fragmented picture of education, health and social care provision. We are therefore writing to outline proposals for the formation of a new trust which we believe has the potential to better serve all our children and families.

In looking for a meaningful solution to this problem, we have been working closely with our respective trust boards, representatives from the Department of Education, key stakeholders and partner schools. We now feel we have the opportunity to bring about systemic improvements for children and families in Devon. With that aim in mind, each trust board formally voted in December 2023, to explore the possibility of forming a new trust for Devon. The opportunity to establish a strong primary and secondary voice that has the power to effect change and influence within and beyond education has never been stronger.

We know that there is already a very strong alignment between the vision and core values of our two trusts. Such strong foundations provide a solid grounding on which a new trust can be built. A new trust will also enable us to develop greater resilience for all schools and has the potential to significantly enhance provision for all pupils.

We will be seeking partner schools outside of our current organisations to contribute to the formation of this new trust from the outset. The investment and contribution of other local schools from the start makes this proposal even more exciting. Such an opportunity to improve the outcomes for the children and families that we serve, cannot be missed.

In the weeks ahead, we will consult more widely with all involved, sharing more detailed plans about what it means for your child. In the meantime, if you have any comments, questions or thoughts, you would like to share with us, please do so by clicking the following [link](#).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Light".

**RICHARD LIGHT**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Tarka Learning Partnership

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Chown".

**GARY CHOWN**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ventrus Multi Academy Trust