

18th May 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

I wrote to you before half term to inform you of King Edward VII's intention to join the Apollo Partnership Trust and the shared vision to review our current two tier secondary system, with the intention of forming two secondary schools in Coalville, taught by the same staff, under one employer – Apollo. As stated, as we progress forward, we will inform you of developments of gradual changes during the number of stages of the process and consultation.

The planned changes for three schools to become two are all subject to parental consultation, consultation with the wider community and the department of education approval. As we move forward with the exciting plans for shaping the future of secondary education in Coalville and its surrounding villages, I would like to inform you of some changes that will take effect from September 2018. We are planning changes for both school sites and some of these; at Castle Rock and King Edward VII will begin in September 2018. No legal agreement has been made, we believe it is in the best interest of our young people to make gradual changes in order to maintain the smooth running of the schools.

For the Castle Rock and King Edward VII site we intend to bring departments together over the coming two years. Phase 1 of our development and planning for all through 11-16 education includes relocating KS4 Maths, Computing and Music to the Castle Rock site and KS3 Modern Foreign Languages is to relocate to the King Edward VII site. This will enable expert staff to teach both KS3 and KS4 and it will enhance the effectiveness of assessment and progress across the key stages. Similarly, we also have the opportunity to share teaching expertise in Art and some of the Foundation subjects, allowing for a wider range of option subjects in Year 9. Importantly, schools and students will experience a sense of continuity in their teaching and learning. We expect this to mitigate against the anxieties that students feel around the end of Year 9 transition and help all students to be confident in moving across the two schools sites for their subjects going forward.

In order to facilitate the relocation of subjects and deployment of staff across both schools, we need to make minor adjustments to the structure of the school day and therefore lesson lengths may alter to allow students and staff to move across the site, however this will not change the start and finish times of the school day, the standard Castle Rock school day will still continue to run from **8.50am to 3.40pm**.

There will be "Frequently Asked Questions" and information on the Apollo Partnership Trust website in the forthcoming days. I will continue to keep you informed of developments as we progress.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Julia Patrick
CEO Apollo Partnership Trust