

June 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

## **Balcarras chosen to sponsor Cheltenham's new secondary school**

We are writing to inform you that Balcarras has been confirmed as the Local Authority's sponsor to develop and run Cheltenham's new secondary school.

It is a very exciting development and both the staff and the governors were thrilled to hear when the announcement was made this morning. Our task is to create a school which is vibrant and successful. From the outset we will use Balcarras as the blueprint and we will draw on the considerable experience that we have within the school.

We want to reassure you that Balcarras will continue to operate as it has done in the past—we have no intention of allowing the high standards we have set to slip away. Although this project will require considerable capacity, the new school will come with set up funding which we will use to create a project team to establish the school.

Sponsoring the new school will require us to make a legal change to our status. At the moment Balcarras is a stand alone Single Academy Trust, which means that the governors have responsibility for the education of the 1394 students here at Balcarras. Taking on sponsorship of the new school will require us to create a new trust which will run the affairs of both schools. However, on a day to day basis, the nature of our school won't change at all.

We would like to thank those schools who wrote in support of our bid: Pittville, Cheltenham Ladies' College, Glenfall, Charlton Kings Infants, Charlton Kings Juniors, Holy Apostles, Leckhampton, St James', Greatfield Park and Warden Hill. We have a great relationship with each of these schools and it will be good to be able to draw upon their advice and support.

We are delighted that Balcarras will be playing a key role in shaping the future of Cheltenham's education system in the years ahead. We will keep you fully informed as the process unfolds and there will be further opportunities for consultation in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher



Chair of Trustees