**Frequently Asked Questions and Answers**

What is an Academy and a Multi Academy Trust?

* An Academy is a state-funded school that is run by a charitable company, rather than a local authority. A Multi Academy Trust is a group of academies that work together under a single board of trustees, who are accountable for the performance and quality of the schools in the Trust.

Why do we want to join St Christopher's Trust?

* We want to join St Christopher's Trust because we believe that it is a Trust that shares our vision and values, and that can help us to improve the quality of education and outcomes for our pupils. We have been working with St Christopher's Trust for a while on developing our curriculum and practice, and we have seen the benefits of their support and expertise.
* St Michael’s, St Sidwell’s and St Leonard’s schools in Exeter are already part of the St Christopher’s trust. This means that we will benefit from much closer working with colleagues across Exeter.

St Christopher’s is a Church of England Trust, will the character and ethos of Ladysmith be maintained?

* One of our key considerations in recommending St Christopher’s was that the character and ethos of Ladysmith schools, as non-faith schools, is maintained. During the selection process we met staff and visited both faith, and non-faith, schools within the St Christopher’s Trust. Through our engagement, we are confident that our schools’ non-faith ethos will be maintained through this transition.

What will change if we join St Christopher's Trust?

* We do not expect any major changes to the day-to-day experience of our pupils and parents. Our schools will keep their names, logo, uniforms, term dates, and school times. Our staff will transfer to the Trust under the same employment terms and conditions, and our admissions policy will remain the same. However, we do expect some positive changes in the way we work with other schools in the Trust, the resources and opportunities we can access, and the quality of teaching and learning we can provide.

Will the schools get more money as an Academy?

* Academies receive the same amount of per-pupil funding as they would receive from the Local Authority as a maintained school. The school budget will be allocated by the Trust, as it is now by the Local Authority, with the budget preparation still being maintained by the school, supported by the Trust. As part of a Multi-Academy Trust, schools can achieve greater efficiencies through increased buying power and joint commissioning of services, such as school equipment, catering and IT.

How can I share my views and ask questions?

* We value your views and feedback, and we want to answer any questions or concerns you may have. You can share your thoughts with us by:
1. sending us an email at consultation@ladysmithfederation.net or
2. joining us for a coffee and a chat on:
* 15th May between 3pm to 4pm in the Infant School Hall
* 17th May between 3pm to 4pm in the Junior School Hall
1. Additionally, members of the governing body will be available during the parents evenings at both the Infant and Junior School during the week commencing 22 April.