

4 November 2024

Dear Families

Re: Application to convert to academy status

I am delighted to inform you that our application to convert to academy status and become a member of a new, merged trust with the existing Pennine Trust schools, and South Craven has been approved and we can now begin working with South Craven Academy Trust, the Pennine Trust and our stakeholders and partners to realise our vision.

South Craven and the Pennine Trust hope to merge on 1st April 2025. The target date for Pendle Vale to join is 1st July 2025. The longer timescale for Pendle Vale is because the school site was redeveloped under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and transfer of that contract is more complex.

In the summer, a working group formed across each organisation considered important features of the new trust, including vision, mission and values and a suitable name. The mission, vision and values are summarised overleaf. In selecting a name, we were keen to acknowledge the feedback of the initial consultation process; avoid any geographical reference, which could restrict future growth; and reflect our shared values of ambition and collaboration. The name selected for the new trust is *Apex Collaborative Trust*.

A key driver for forming this trust is the potential for all schools to work collaboratively, individual school identity and heritage is fundamental to our vision. The strong identities of all of the schools will be treasured and fostered within Apex.

An initial piece of collaborative work bringing together a small group of pupils from all 6 schools that will be in the new trust, is to work with an external provider to develop ideas and designs for a new logo. This will take place this half term.

Over the next few months there will be periodic updates about our progress with the merger on the website. Important news and dates will also be shared directly in writing in a similar fashion to this. In the meantime, do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or would like additional details on any of the above.

Pendle Vale College, Oxford Rd, Nelson, BB9 8LF

Main Reception: 01282 682240 | Email: reception@pendlevale.lancs.sch.uk

Web: pendlevale.lancs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr O Handley BSc (Hons) MTL

Mission, vision and values of Apex Collaborative Trust:

Mission: *Make a difference in our communities by placing learning at the heart of all we do.*

Vision: *To be a collaborative and innovative Trust, which has the highest aspirations and provides the best opportunities for all of our students and staff to develop, thrive and succeed.*

Values:

Ambition - we strive to always push the limits of possibility with staff and students. We encourage aspiration and innovation and have the courage to take risks to inspire positive change. We resist complacency, take all opportunities, see failure as a chance to learn and persevere when the going gets tough.

Collaboration - we know we are stronger together and always seek opportunities to collaborate to improve provision for our students. We work alongside all stakeholders in our communities to develop effective partnerships and enhance what we do.

Trust - we value everyone equally and show this by acting with respect and integrity and ensuring we are inclusive at all times. We have high standards in all areas and foster a culture of personal growth where everyone takes responsibility for their actions and is encouraged to engage in self-reflection. We do the right things in the right way for our stakeholders.

These values align closely with exiting values for the Pennine Trust, South Craven and Pendle Vale, and will afford schools the opportunity for individual interpretation of exact wording, whilst following the behaviours defined in the exemplification of each value.

Yours sincerely



Oliver Handley
Headteacher
Pendle Vale College