



# The Priory Federation of Academies Trust

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Registered Company No: 6462935.

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## Cherry Willingham Community School to join The Priory Federation of Academies Trust

The Priory Federation of Academies Trust confirmed today that Cherry Willingham Community School (CWCS) is to join the organisation.

The Priory has been named as preferred sponsor by the Department for Education (DfE) and will be responsible for the running of Cherry Willingham School from September 2017.

The move follows approaches by Lincolnshire County Council and the Department for Education to the Priory's Board. Trustees say they have since been extremely impressed with the school and believe it will make an excellent partner to the four academies currently in the Trust.

Students and staff at CWCS will enjoy the same support and facilities offered to the existing academies. Students will have the opportunity to join the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and a variety of sports and arts programmes, as well as take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities at home and abroad. The staff will become part of the Trust's professional development programme and enjoy the career opportunities offered to existing employees.

It is expected that CWCS will officially join the Trust in September, subject to final DfE approval after the general election. A senior team from the Priory will be working with CWCS Headteacher Mrs Elaine Stiles, as well as with staff and students, before and during the summer holiday in order to have all the necessary plans in place for the new academic year.

Howard Gee, Chair of the Trust, said: "We are impressed by the over-arching ethos at Cherry and feel that the school has much to contribute to our learning community. We are full of admiration for the positive learning environment, the commitment of the staff and the polite and enthusiastic students.

"We hope that Cherry's decision to join us will enable it to continue to develop a wide range of opportunities for the children.

"There will be meetings over the next few weeks with governors, parents, staff and students to ensure that we communicate fully with everyone involved.

"This is an exciting time for us all. We are delighted to be part of the next stage of Cherry's future and look forward to working with the students to help them achieve their goals."

Councillor Mrs Patricia Bradwell, Executive Councillor for Children's Services, said: "We fully support this proposal for The Priory Federation of Academies Trust to be the preferred sponsor for Cherry Willingham School. The Priory has a strong track record of success as sponsor for a number of other schools in the area. Cherry Willingham has been waiting for an academy sponsor for some time, so we are pleased that this is now progressing. We look forward to seeing this partnership lead to improvements for Cherry Willingham School and to an excellent education for its children and young people."



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## Notes to Editors

- 1) The Priory Federation of Academies Trust is a multi-academy trust (MAT) which currently runs four academies in Lincolnshire.  
**Lincoln:** The Priory Academy LSST; The Priory City of Lincoln Academy; The Priory Witham Academy.  
**Grantham:** The Priory Ruskin Academy.
- 2) The latest DfE performance tables for MATs recorded that The Priory's progress measures were "significantly above" the national average and placed the organisation in the top 10 MATs in the country.
- 3) Ling Moor Primary Academy, in North Hykeham, and Belvoir High School in Bottesford, near Grantham, have completed parental consultations and are also in the final stages of a DfE process which is scheduled to see them join the Priory MAT in the autumn of 2017.
- 4) The Trust is responsible for the education of more than 4,500 students and the employment of more than 750 staff.