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**Mrs Jo Di-Pede BA (Hons) NPQH**  
Headteacher

Our ref: AO/B/CAT/JDP/HT

7<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents

### **CASTLEMAN ACADEMY TRUST - UPDATE**

I hope that you and your families continue to be safe and well during this period of school closure. The situation has been incredibly difficult for many families. We are thinking of you all and send our best wishes as this pandemic prevents schools from re-opening at the moment.

There is no official information about any return to school or what that might entail. Staff are planning for a variety of different possibilities and we all hope that the government announcement on Sunday will provide some clarification and details. In the meantime, we are in the process of preparing additional home learning packs which will be made available for collection towards the end of next week. We will keep you informed.

The Governors of Ferndown First School wanted to update you on the proposal for Castleman Academy Trust to expand beyond Broadstone First School and Broadstone Middle School.

Last term the Governing Bodies of five local schools consulted with their school community on a proposal for their schools to join the Trust. The Governing Bodies then considered carefully the outcome of that consultation and other information about how the larger trust would be governed, led and managed.

We all continue to believe strongly that being part of an expanded Castleman Academy Trust will have clear benefits for all our schools, demonstrated most recently by the amazing support and collaboration of Headteachers and staff in responding to the Covid 19 crisis.

Three schools, including Ferndown First School, have decided to join an expanded Castleman Academy Trust, which will have the following five member schools:

- Broadstone First School
- Broadstone Middle School
- Ferndown First School
- Ferndown Middle School
- Parley First School

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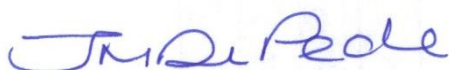
Ferndown Upper School took the decision not to join the Trust and so, understandably, the Corfe Hills School governing body are discussing the proposal further to ensure it is right for their school.

The schools have all agreed to delay the expansion of the Trust until 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020, at the earliest, to ensure that our schools return to some type of normality before starting the expansion of Castleman Academy Trust.

The full Consultation report will be made available on the school website on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and commitment to our school.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J M Di-Pede  
Headteacher

