

3rd May 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

CONSULTATION ON ACADEMY CONVERSION

As you may be aware the Government are encouraging schools that are performing well to convert to academy status, and in this context our governors have been considering the school's future very carefully. At the forefront of their considerations has been the well-being and achievement of our students. The governors have asked how we can maintain strong and effective systems of accountability and governance that would make sure that we remain successful, sustainable, and most importantly able to provide the highest possible standard of education and care for our students.

The outcome of these discussions is that the governors of our school have unanimously agreed that we should explore converting to an academy in partnership with [The GORSE Academies Trust](#) (TGAT) from 1st September 2017.

Part of our statutory duty when looking to convert to an academy is to consult formally with our parents and this letter marks the beginning of this process. The consultation period will commence on Tuesday 2nd May 2017 and will end on Tuesday 23rd May 2017. During this timeframe, we will be able to answer any questions or concerns you may have and this will help to provide the governors with a clear picture of the school community's views about this potential change.

Unlike a situation with a 'sponsored' academy where a failing school is directed to join an academy chain, our consecutive 'Good' judgements from Ofsted give us the opportunity to choose to convert with partners of our choice.

WHO ARE THE GORSE ACADEMIES TRUST?

TGAT are a strong partnership of four secondary [academies](#), a Sixth Form College and five primaries, under the executive leadership of Sir John Townsley. Two of their academies, Morley and Farnley, have both been graded by Ofsted as 'Outstanding'; both have also moved beyond this judgement to earn the prestigious [World Class School](#) quality mark. The Elliott Hudson Sixth Form College and the Ruth Gorse Academy have not yet been open long enough to have been inspected, but both have exceptionally high levels of current achievement. Morley Bruntcliffe joined TGAT in 2015 and their excellent 2016 results have established them as one of the most rapidly improving schools locally, regionally and nationally.



After establishing a well-deserved reputation for transforming schools in some of the most challenging localities in the city TGAT is now in a position to embrace an already strong and successful school, such as ours, as a new partner within the trust. All of us involved in these discussions have recognised the enormous advantage that comes from belonging to a network of excellence in leadership and teaching, and know that there is much to be gained when great organisations are brought together.

WHY DID GOVERNORS CHOOSE THE GORSE ACADEMIES TRUST?

There are four key reasons why our governors consider TGAT to be the preferred choice of partner:

1. Their values and ambitions dovetail with those of our school.
2. Their academies have a track record of achieving exceptional outcomes for all their students and attaining 'Outstanding' judgments in Ofsted inspections.
3. Their financial integrity and management meets the highest level of professional scrutiny.
4. Unlike some other multi-academy trusts, they have a local focus; they are committed to the children of Leeds.

PARTICIPATING IN THE CONSULTATION

We would value the opportunity to consult with you on these proposals and would like to invite you to school on **Tuesday 16th May at 6.00pm** so that Sir John Townsley and I might share our thinking about the strategic significance of this partnership and to provide you an opportunity to engage us face to face on the consultation. I do hope that you are able to prioritise this meeting.

There is additional information on our school website; under the heading 'Consultation' and we have included some 'Frequently Asked Questions' to support you. I would also encourage you to read the individual academy stories on TGAT website, which describe the exciting improvement journey each have undertaken.

To give us your feedback on this you can write to me at school or email us using consultation@bostonspa.leeds.sch.uk.

Thank you for your continuing support for our school; Sir John and I look forward to meeting you school on Tuesday 16th May 2017.

Yours sincerely



CHRISTOPHER WALSH
Headteacher