

WH/RNM

29<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

I cannot pretend that this has been a normal few months; no previous term has begun with Leeds City Council (LCC) telling us of their intention to sell our land to rebuild somewhere else. Thank you for all your support; it has meant so much to us all.

We really value the time everybody has taken to complete the LCC survey. For all the survey's faults it was important that the voice of Boston Spa was heard.

I have written to Lord Agnew this morning. The purpose of the letter was to ask that he grants our academy order without delay. I have reminded him of our many concerns about the integrity of both the survey and the accompanying data sets and I describe the LCC process as being 'catastrophically mishandled leading to a situation where few meaningful or evidential judgements will be able to be drawn'. LCC have taken two communities through a turbulent, fruitless and divisive month. The way that LCC have handled this has done damage to the reputation of their leadership; it was a missed opportunity.

Please be assured that governors remain confident of the way forward, knowing that the strategic plan presented in May 2017 has integrity and is absolutely the right one for Boston Spa; our commitment to our partnership plan with The GORSE Academies Trust (TGAT) is absolute.

Last week Alec Shelbrooke MP published a paper stating:

***'Boston Spa High School should be allowed to academise and given the chance to move the school towards an 'Outstanding' Ofsted judgment, which will in turn make the school an attractive option for prospective parents, thereby increasing pupil numbers.'***

Today local ward councillors did the same, concluding that:

***'We believe that Boston Spa should be allowed to join The GORSE Academies Trust without further delay.'***

Page 1 of 2

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 @BostonSpaAcademy

The decision to allow us to join TGAT still has to be made by Lord Agnew, but these are significant statements, removing all local political support from the LCC plan presented by Mr Walker and Mr Eastwood in January. This ground has been won as the direct result of the support our families have shown for our school. Every social media post, letter and email has counted, and we are enormously grateful.

Thank you, our school community goes into the holiday in good heart.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CWALSH', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

CHRISTOPHER WALSH  
Principal