

WH/RNM

14<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

### **LEEDS CITY COUNCIL SURVEY**

I am writing to ask that you make sure that you have completed the [survey](#) that Leeds City Council (LCC) have published following our application to join The GORSE Academies Trust (TGAT).

The choice presented, although not articulated well in the survey, is between our Governors' plan to partner with TGAT and drive for that outstanding school in the community, or the proposal presented by LCC, that our school is closed, the land sold for development, and a new school built in Wetherby. It is essential that the voice of the Boston Spa communities is clearly heard. I would remind you that it is not one survey per household, but LCC are looking for a response from every member of your family.

I have previously shared my concerns about [the integrity of the survey](#), and while I stand by these comments, this should not be a reason for any of us to choose not to complete it.

### **PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

While I appreciated the support from [Boston Spa Parish Council](#), I was dismayed by the conduct of Wetherby Town Council yesterday evening where a decision to support the LCC proposal for one school in Wetherby was unanimously passed without discussion or contribution from any Councillor except for a statement read by the Chair of Wetherby High School Governors.

The room was packed with people in support of Boston Spa Academy, and not for the first time have I been overwhelmed by the passionate support for our school from the community. I would like to express my thanks to everyone who took the time to attend the meeting.

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It is tremendously sad and a matter of deep regret that the way that LCC have handled this has resulted in setting one community in opposition to another. It is important to remember, however, that neither Wetherby Town Council nor Boston Spa Parish Council are the decision makers; it is Lord Agnew's view that is important. Leeds City Council will seek to influence him using the results of their survey, so please make sure your voice is heard and that it is completed before Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

### **MEETING THE REGIONAL SCHOOLS COMMISSIONER**

On Friday we have a visit from Vicky Beer, the Regional Schools Commissioner. She will meet with me, Sir John Townsley, and a representative group of Governors. I hope to be able to share something of this meeting with you in Friday's blog.

### **OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO LOCAL COUNCILLORS**

The local councillors are making themselves available for a face to face dialogue on this matter, and, if you are available I would encourage you to attend either session to share your thoughts with the ward members. The details are:

Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March:	3.30pm until 7.30	Boston Spa Village Hall.
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> March:	10.30am until 2.30pm	Wetherby Town Hall.

Aside from completing the survey, these open sessions provide your last opportunity to seek to persuade the local councillors of the integrity of the Boston Spa application to join TGAT, but most importantly the local councillors need to hear your views directly and I hope that you are able to take this opportunity.

We value your support immensely, and you should not hesitate to get in touch if you would like any further information.

Yours sincerely



CHRISTOPHER WALSH  
Principal