

WH/RNM

3rd May 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Today marks a whole year since I first wrote to families inviting your participation in our consultation about Boston Spa converting to join The GORSE Academies Trust (TGAT).

I know that many of you share my frustration that, having undertaken an open, comprehensive and legal process, Boston Spa has been left waiting for twelve months to find out the outcome of a process that should take just twelve weeks.

We believe it is unprecedented that a 'good' school, as judged by Ofsted, seeking to convert to an academy within a high performing trust, has had to face as many significant challenges as we have. I have gone on record to publicly hold those responsible to account for their inadequate handling of the situation, and I have found no cause to reconsider my comments.

Governors' conviction that the partnership with TGAT is the right strategic direction for Boston Spa has been amplified as, during this same twelve month period, TGAT has moved from being awarded three Ofsted 'outstanding' judgements to seven. This is a remarkable achievement.

Lord Agnew, having received feedback from the Leeds City Council survey, has appropriately deferred the decision about Boston Spa back to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC), Vicky Beer. The RSC has been kept well informed of all developments regarding our application and Governors and I last met with her just before Easter to update her on the views of our school community.

Tomorrow, when the local elections will be over, we will ask her for a swift resolution to the uncertainty created by the officers of Leeds City Council. We will be pressing her to allow Boston Spa to begin September 2018 exactly where Governors had originally



envisioned that we start September 2017. We will be making that request in the knowledge that we have wider political support and that once a member of TGAT, we will be able to re-focus our efforts on driving the standards of education for our young people rather than be distracted from the job that we are here to do.

Please be assured that our school community is not in any shape disheartened. One of the joys of the last twelve months has been the resolute support of our families for the strategic direction of our school; your patience, loyalty and support through this last year has been magnificent. Every email, social media post, letter, phone call and kind comment has been valuable.

Thank you for this support, it has meant so much to us all, and as soon as we have any news we will share it with you.

Yours sincerely

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

CHRISTOPHER WALSH
Principal