



HOWDEN SCHOOL

Derwent Road • Howden • East Yorkshire • DN14 7AL
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Headteacher: Mr G Cannon

21 September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Notification of the Governing Body's decision to move to Academy status

The Governing Body's priority is to enable our school to continue to provide an excellent education for our children whilst protecting the school's role at the heart of our community and retaining its unique qualities and strengths. We recognise that the role of Local Authorities in supporting schools is diminishing and that it is Government policy to encourage effective schools to become Academies.

As a 'good' school we are in a position to choose if and when to convert to an Academy on our own terms. Schools are increasingly going to be pushed along the Academy road. We want to make an informed choice before we are put under external pressure to convert.

During the previous academic year the Governing Body held a number of meetings to consider the future direction of the school. These meetings were driven by the following four principles:

1. The ability to retain control of our own destiny as a school and the ability to make our own decisions and shape our own future.
2. How we improve standards in the school without support from the Local Authority for a School Improvement Service.
3. How we provide services in the school that the Local Authority used to provide but which they can no longer maintain at the quality required.
4. Our desire to ensure that our ethos (Team Howden) remains and strengthens.

The Governing Body believes the best way of maintaining standards in the future is for our school to join a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).

This letter is to notify you, as a stakeholder in our school, of the Governing Body's intention to join a MAT. Further in the process the Governing Body will start a full consultation process about joining a MAT with a view to converting to Academy status. At this point in the process we will contact you with information about how you can engage with the process.

Some questions you may already have:

What is involved in becoming an Academy?

The school will complete a consultation with parents, students, staff and the wider community which the Governors will take into account when reaching its decision on whether to move to Academy status. The

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Governing Body has voted for this proposal in principle and The Secretary of State for Education will decide (or not) to approve our application if Governors decide to proceed. Each school is given £25,000 towards the costs of the conversion process including legal fees etc.

Would the school have to change its name, logo or uniform?

No, under the proposed MAT plans, the Governors have no plans to change the name, logo, uniform or individual identity of our school. We are proud of our identity as Howden School. Letter headings may change slightly to reflect our participation in a MAT, but little else will change.

How will the children be affected?

In many ways the children will not notice any immediate difference; they will be in the same uniform, in the same classrooms with the same teaching staff. We will continue to strive for an outstanding education for all our children. However, in time the children may notice changes and improvements in the way that they learn, resulting from the greater training opportunities given to teaching staff to innovate and improve pupil learning. They may also start to notice the increased opportunities for cooperation with other schools within the MAT. The best source of information on academies is the Government's own website: <https://www.gov.uk/become-an-academy-information-for-schools>

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. The Governors and the Senior Leadership Team of the school are committed to ensuring that Howden School continues to be a good school serving all members of the community. It is therefore our duty to explore every opportunity to maintain and improve our already high standards. Your feedback and views really do count and we will keep you fully informed of further developments including the consultation process.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Mrs A Martinson
Chair of Governors



Mr G Cannon
Headteacher