



Thursday 6th November 2014

Dear Colleagues,

Academy Conversion - A Consultation with Stakeholders

I hope that you will take the time to read through this letter and complete the consultation form regarding a consultation process concerning the four TEACH Trust schools. The four schools in the TEACH Trust are Ad Astra Infant School, Haymoor Junior School, Canford Heath Infant School and Canford Heath Junior School. This consultation relates to a proposal by the TEACH Trustees that the 4 schools within the Trust convert to becoming a Multi Academy Trust on 1st April 2015.

At this school, we are proud of the close links and good working relationships we have established with our neighbouring schools. These have been greatly strengthened and improved since the 4 primary schools came together and established the TEACH Trust in April 2013. The Trust now owns the land and buildings of each school, and staff are directly employed by the Trust rather than the Local Authority. Working within the Trust has brought each school closer together, and agreement has been reached on many areas of common interest such as Pupil Assessment, Admissions and Attendance. However, at the present time, all the schools face continuing financial pressures and demands. The Trustees believe that, by converting to a Multi Academy Trust, and having direct control of our budgets from the Local Authority, we can take a greater strategic view of our future needs and procurement. Being an Academy means we have the necessary legal entity to make the decisions/changes needed. The Trustees believe that the Academy programme offers the 4 schools greater opportunities to continue our programme of school improvement, to build upon our successes, and to use the increased flexibility to adapt our school life to benefit the children, and indeed the wider Canford Heath community.

Full details about what becoming an academy means for the schools is available in hard copy via all school's office's and via the websites. In addition a list of likely questions that have been raised at other schools which have been through this process, and the answers, are also available in hard copy via the school office or on the website. Free access to the internet is also available at local libraries. There is also further information re. Academies on the Department for Education website.

The Trustees have given this matter considerable thought already but they are very keen to hear the thoughts of parents and staff. No final decision has been made and this consultation with parents and staff is important to enable the Trustees and Governors of the 4 schools to come to a decision. The Trustees are committed to providing the best possible education for all the children in our 4 schools and we must be sure that this proposal is the right way forward. I therefore hope you will contribute to this important consultation process.

Yours sincerely

Val Arbon. Head teacher, Ad Astra Infants, and Chair of the TEACH Trust.

