



Lakeside

Community Primary School



MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST UPDATE

Dear Parent/Carer/Staff or Member of the Local Community,

Following on from my first letter, excerpts of which are shown here - 'many schools are considering their future status' ... 'the Governing Body have been exploring a range of options to secure the best future for our schools' ... 'it was agreed to examine further' ... converting to academy status as part of a Derby Hub of Harmony Multi -Academy Trust'.

I am now writing to make everyone aware the consultation is ending shortly, 20.11.17 4.00pm, and to share with you some of the questions that have been asked by respondents and the responses provided so that we all hold the same information.

1. 'Will the school introduce a new school uniform?' – NO
2. 'Will staff lose or have to apply for their jobs?' – NO all current staff will move to work in the academy on the same terms and conditions [assuming they want to]. NO-ONE will need to reapply for their job.
3. 'Are staff pensions safe?' – YES completely safe.
4. 'Will the school curriculum change?' – NO we will continue to work hard to give our pupils an interesting, exciting and appropriate curriculum.
5. 'Will we stop supporting families with problems, issues and requests for help of any kind?' – NO all our current support systems will remain and we are committed to continue to provide this kind of support.
6. 'Why are governors looking into becoming an academy now when they still have the choice to stay as a local authority school?' – the government has made everyone aware of their preference for all schools to become an academy in the next few years. Our school have been producing some improved results with the support of our local authority school improvement services but all 6 schools feel that standards could be better. Derby City is one of the 12 designated 'Opportunity Areas' across the country, which means the Department of Education [DfE], are working closely with the city to improve standards in our schools amongst other things. Governors and school leaders have therefore looked at other areas of the country to find additional school improvement partners, so that we can continue to work with our local authority whilst also receiving support from elsewhere. Harmony Trust has an excellent reputation and track record of improving pupil outcomes and schools. They have been given money by the DfE to develop a hub of schools in Derby. We see this as a recommendation by the Department of Education.
7. 'Will the school lose its 'family feel'?' – NO – school leaders will never allow this to happen and Harmony Trust really value this aspect of all our schools and will support us to keep and build on our individuality and our relationships with our families.
8. 'Will you still do the SATS tests?' – YES and we will get better results!! All the schools that have

ONWARDS and UPWARDS

REACHING FOR THE STARS



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already joined Harmony Trust have significantly improved their pupils' test results at all ages. This is one of the main reasons governors chose Harmony over other Trusts to look at.

9. 'When would the school become an academy?' – WITHIN THIS SCHOOL YEAR – the exact date is unknown as a number of other partners are involved in the process.

If you have any further questions, please contact the schools on the email addresses above or in person.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Green
Executive Headteacher

Jason Coupland and Emily Parsons
Co-Chairs of Governors

ONWARDS and UPWARDS

REACHING FOR THE STARS

