



Wyberton Primary School

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Monday 1st October 2018

The Great Oaks Federation Academy Consultation

Dear Parents/Carers,

I wrote to you on the 7th September informing you that the Governors had passed a resolution expressing a desire to convert to being an Academy. As part of the consultation process we invited parents, carers and members of the community to share their views and questions. In my letter we requested questions and comments be submitted to the schools' offices or via email in advance so that we could decide the best way to respond. At this stage with four days left of the consultation we have had a few informal conversations with parents mainly regarding uniform and we have had no formal questions submitted. Therefore we have decided to compile some responses to those informal queries below:

1) Will the school uniform change if the school becomes an academy?

The school name will change to become "Wyberton Primary Academy" and "St Thomas' CE Primary Academy" therefore the logo will also change very slightly. We are intending on keeping our colours and the logo as it is but the word "academy" will be used in place of "school". We are intending on gradually phasing this in over a period of time and children will be free to wear their existing uniform for as long as they wish. Families will not be expected to replace any uniform they have and it may be some time before "academy" uniform becomes available so please feel free to purchase existing Great Oaks uniform if it is required. There are no other changes planned to the uniform.

The schools will also slowly begin replacing its signage/letter heads etc but again this will happen as and when things need replacing rather than changing immediately just to reflect the new name. The use of the "Great Oaks Federation" name will remain as this is well established in the local area.

2) Will the school change its holiday dates if it becomes an academy?

The academy recognises that it serves the community in which it sits and that many of our parents have children at other local schools both primary and secondary. The academies therefore will endeavour to keep its holiday arrangements in step with other schools and the county as a whole. However, as all schools now have the right to adjust their holidays it may not always be possible to match all other schools. We will seek to mirror the majority especially those schools in the local area. Please be reassured that if at any time there was a desire to

make changes to the holidays this would only take place following lengthy consultation with parents.

3) Are we going to be part of a chain?

We will become part of the Infinity Academies Trust alongside Spilsby Primary Academy and Gipsey Bridge Academy. Our schools will be expected to be as autonomous as possible to retain their individual ethos and character. Mr Booth will continue to be the Executive Headteacher of our schools but will also lead the Trust working closely with all the other Heads to ensure that the schools support each other for the benefit of all our pupils.

4) Will there be any change to the admissions policy?

We intend to keep with the current arrangements which are determined by the local authority and keep in line with any changes in the future. It is important to us that our admission arrangements remain open, transparent and inclusive.

5) Will staff be moved around on a regular basis?

There is no intention or expectation that staff will move around between the four schools. Currently, Great Oaks has a number of roles that work across our two schools and this will continue. We do however intend that staff will meet for shared training and moderation a various points throughout the school year.

As we have had limited questions submitted it does not feel necessary to hold a formal Q&A Parents meeting. However, we are more than happy to meet with parents informally and answer any questions or queries they may have regarding our conversion to academy status. Please contact the school office or speak to us at the school gate. We will write to you again following the end of the consultation and when Governors have made their final decision.

Yours sincerely,



Gavin Booth
Executive Headteacher



Sue Brackenbury
Chair of Governors