

HANWELL FIELDS COMMUNITY SCHOOL



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7th September 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Hanwell Fields Community School and Academy Status

In the Autumn of 2010 the Department for Education (DfE) offered a range of schools the opportunity to join the new academies programme. The Government is encouraging schools to consider this opportunity believing that becoming an Academy gives schools new freedoms, greater flexibilities and more control over their finances so that they can continue to drive up standards.

As a school with an Ofsted judgement of "good with outstanding features" in the most recent inspection (November 2009), Hanwell Fields could make an application to the DfE to convert to Academy status. To explore this opportunity, the Governing Body and I have been researching to assess whether becoming an Academy would bring more opportunities for our children and further improve our school.

Having carefully considered the issues, the Governors now believe that becoming an Academy at this time may be in the best interests of our pupils, staff and the local school community. In addition we believe that the benefits of such a move may be enhanced if we did not try to do this alone but became part of the family of academies sponsored by the United Learning Trust who also manage the nearby North Oxfordshire Academy.

At the meeting on 11/07/11 the Governing Body voted unanimously to further explore this opportunity and wish to start consulting with staff, parents, pupils and the wider community in order to understand what others think.

The Governors are keen that all parents can learn more about academy status and the reasons why the Governing Body are considering such a change. To help you learn more the Governors will be sending out information about academies and the United Learning Trust. They will also be inviting you to a meeting so that those of you who would like to hear more and ask your questions direct may do so.



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The same information is also on the school website. If, after receiving the information, you have a query regarding academy status, or a comment to make, then please submit it in writing to the school office, using the response form at the end of this letter.

So that you can have a view of how the consultation process will be organised the key dates are outlined below.

Proposed Consultation Process Key Dates:

- 11th July 2011 Governing Body voted unanimously for further investigation and to begin consultation.
- 7th September 2011 Consultation begins with letter and information pack to parents.
- 22nd September 2011 Consultation meeting for staff (3.30-4.00pm)
- 22nd September 2011 Consultation meeting for stakeholders (5.00-6.00pm)
- 22nd September 2011 Consultation Meeting for Parents/Guardians. (7.00-8.00pm)
- 29th September Consultation period ends.
- 3rd October 2011 Governor's finalise their decision

I trust that this letter gives you appropriate notice and raises your awareness of the Consultation process that the school is undertaking in relation to academy status. Your support has been an invaluable factor in the success of our school so your views and opinions are very important in our planning for the future.

Yours sincerely

Jane Haggitt
Headteacher

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Academy Status Consultation - Reply slip

Name of pupilyear group.....

I/we will be /not be attending the meeting on 22nd September 2011.

Please add any comments on the proposal in the box below.



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