



Ashton Community Science College

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'a school to be proud of'

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1st November 2019

Dear Parent/Carer and Students,

Academy Status: Community Consultation, letter to Parents and Guardians

You may well be aware that the Government encourages all schools to consider converting to Academy status. I am writing to let you know that after due consideration our Governing Body has taken the decision to explore becoming an academy and join the Bay Learning Trust (a Multi Academy Trust set up by Ripley St Thomas in Lancaster). Ripley is an Ofsted graded Outstanding school, so we see this invitation to join the Trust they set up as an exciting opportunity.

The Governing Body considers that being part of an academy trust is the best option for safeguarding our school from an ever changing political landscape and ensuring continuing improvement. It is therefore in the best interests of current and future students and staff to join an academy trust. It is no longer possible to convert to being a Single Academy Trust and therefore we will need to join a MAT (Multi Academy Trust) if we wish to become an academy. We are in a strong position to be able to be a convertor academy (i.e. out of choice) as a consequence of our Good Ofsted report in April 2018.

A formal consultation process regarding the proposal to convert Ashton Community Science College to academy status and for the school to join The Bay Learning Trust commences today. We are consulting with staff, parents and local community partners to determine whether the school should proceed with conversion.

The consultation will run until Friday 13th December 2019. The full timeline of the consultation and a copy of this letter, along with some frequently asked questions, are published on our website.

The change will not alter the unique nature of our school. We will continue to sit at the heart of the local community, to offer high quality opportunities to our students and enable each one of them to experience success and become mature young adults. Governors believe that being an academy will give us a freer hand to do the best we can for our whole school community. Whilst we will be part of an academy trust, rest assured that the organisation and every day running of the school will continue as normal.

The transfer to academy status will have no effect on the staff at Ashton or their terms and conditions of employment. The Governing Body recognises that our staff members are central to the success of this school and so are committed to retaining them through offering this reassurance.

[How to take part in the consultation process - please see the following page](#)



At this stage, we are not committing the school to conversion to Academy status. We are consulting with everyone associated with our school before Governors meet again to make a final decision. Should you wish to respond to the consultation or have any further queries, we would ask that you get in touch in writing by midday on Friday 13th December 2019.

Additionally, there will be a meeting for parents on Wednesday 13th November at 6.00 pm for you to ask further questions for clarification. Should you wish to attend this meeting, please telephone the main reception to confirm your attendance.

An Academy consultation page has been set up on our website, where you will find copies of this letter, some frequently asked questions which I hope prove useful at this stage and a timeline for consultation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Asquith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Miss S Asquith
Headteacher