



ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER

NOTES OF A MEETING ON ACADEMY STATUS FOR PARENTS / CARERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

held in the school hall on Wednesday 19th January 2011

Present:

7 Parents, 5 Staff, and 5 Stakeholders

Also in Attendance:

Mr D Hermitt, Mr R Hinckley, Miss S Mardlin, Mr J Barlow and Mrs S Scattergood

The meeting opened at 6.00pm.

The headteacher introduced the Chair of Governors. A detailed explanation of the process and meaning of Academy status was presented by the Headteacher and Chair of Governors.

A discussion then took place regarding the main issues raised by staff, students and parents during the consultation process.

The Local Authority (LA)

Concerns were raised regarding the role of the LA on the Governing Body (GB). The Chair of Governors gave an explanation of the composition of the Governing Body.

A lengthy discussion then took place regarding present funding under the LA and future funding as an Academy.

Explanation was given regarding the purchase of services offered by the LA and the possibility to obtain those at a more competitive level if the school were an Academy.

Political

A discussion took place regarding the Government's White Paper and the government's intentions that all schools should become Academies. Concerns were raised about the impact on other schools and the education system of the government's proposals.

The headteacher confirmed that the school would continue to collaborate with other local schools in the same manner that it does presently.

Union

Lengthy discussions took place regarding the main concern of staff and unions that terms and conditions of contract would no longer be secure if the school became an Academy. It was confirmed that all staff would be transferred across under TUPE by law. The headteacher confirmed that he would continue to ensure that terms and conditions for staff were fair.

The Chair of Governors explained that the Governing Body aimed to provide the best education for the students at the school therefore had no intention of doing anything to demoralise the

staff. There was no agenda to make changes in the foreseeable future but no guarantee could be made for the long term.

Educational

Discussion took place regarding the Government's directive regarding English Baccalaureate and where the school stands. The headteacher confirmed that the school will have to re-evaluate the subjects it offers but it will always prepare all students for life whatever their ability. The school would continue to bring out the best from each student in accordance with the school's mission statement "Achieving Success Together". The Chair of Governors and headteacher confirmed that the school would remain fully inclusive.

Religious Reasons

It was confirmed that the school has no intention to make any changes. It will remain a non faith school.

Future Leadership

The Chair of Governors gave reassurance that should the present headteacher leave for any reason the process to replace him would be rigorous and include all stakeholders as before to ensure that the best possible candidate was chosen to continue the excellent leadership the school presently enjoys.

One stakeholder asked questions about the amount of additional funding that would be available after essential services had been purchased. The headteacher explained that a grant of £25,000 was available from the Government to cover the costs of conversion and that the school had already factored in known costs for legal services etc.

The meeting ended at 7.30pm