

8th March 2016

Dear Parent/Carer



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Consultation on Becoming an Academy

The Governing Body wishes to explain the future development plans for the school and to invite questions and comments from parents and carers to help shape those developments.

Over recent months, leaders at Kelvin Hall have been working on ideas to further develop and ensure the future success of the school. This has included work to support other schools on an informal basis and this has proved to be valuable in developing the skills of our own staff.

Since the General Election, the education landscape has changed considerably and over the next few years it is likely that all schools will become academies. Rather than standing alone, it is likely that they will join other academies as formal partners in what is known as a "Multi Academy Trust" (MAT). This process can be by choice or by external direction. At this stage, Kelvin Hall is in a very strong position to convert to Academy status with the capacity and capability to lead a MAT.

Following extensive meetings, the Governing Body is now moving towards the conversion of the school to Academy status from September 2016. The benefits of converting include, having greater independence to make decisions in the best interests of our students, the opportunity to work in effective partnerships with other schools across all education phases and greater autonomy and control of finances with increased opportunities to recruit and retain high quality staff.

In working with other schools as part of a MAT, the aim would be to share common goals, to work under shared guiding principles, to draw on each school's strengths to tackle areas of development and respond robustly to any challenges.

Any collaboration would always place pupil aspiration and achievement at its heart so that our Cooperative ethos and values combine to give the best educational offer to pupils and the best chance for them to reach their potential. Further benefits of a MAT include;

- Sharing best practice in teaching and learning across all education phases
- Joint training, development and career opportunities for staff
- Increased opportunities to recruit, develop and retain high quality staff across the MAT
- Financial gain via shared expertise in HR, finance and governance

To reassure parents and carers, the ethos, the dress code and the staffing at Kelvin Hall will not be greatly affected and the relentless drive for educational improvement will remain.

I attach an initial "Question and Answer" sheet for your information. This is also posted on our website. You can submit any further questions to info@kelvinhall.net with the title "Consultation". An open meeting for parents and carers will be held on **Wednesday 13th April at 6pm**, at which we can address any further questions or concerns that you may have.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Claire Wood'.

Claire Wood
Chair of Governors

Growing
Talent,
Promoting
Community

Head Teacher: Sarah Smythe
Deputy Headteachers: Pat Cavanagh and Ray Khan

