

Sutton secondary schools consider academy status as a partnership

28 February 2011

The Government says that it wants all schools to become academies over the next few years, and is encouraging schools to become academies as part of a group of schools working in partnership. Currently, any school that is outstanding or good with outstanding features may apply to become an academy; plus any school can apply as part of a group of schools where at least one is good with outstanding features.

All the 14 secondary schools and the one EBD special school in Sutton are considering seeking academy status as a group of autonomous academy schools working in partnership:

- To enable all the schools to take advantage of the new freedoms and additional financial flexibility available to academies, and so that no schools are 'left behind';
- To facilitate and promote co-operation and collaboration between and amongst the schools and with the local authority and other schools in the area;
- To enable schools to undertake joint activities and joint commissioning of services, including from the local authority where they provide value for money; and
- To maintain and develop the good working relationships between their schools.

If the schools decide to become academies, they will enter a formal partnership and adopt an agreement, endorsed by the Department for Education, together to support each other and share expertise to ensure educational standards are maintained; and they will continue to work with the local authority to participate in provision for vulnerable students and the coordination of place planning.

The Governing Body of each school is considering the option of becoming an academy as part of this partnership approach, and they are each carrying out their own consultation with their stakeholders, according to their own agreed timescales.

If you wish to find out more about the option of a school becoming an academy or to submit your views, please contact the school concerned, as shown below, by following their normal communication methods including their website.

The decision on whether or not a school becomes an academy is a decision to be taken by that school's Governing Body based on what it believes to be in the best interests of the school, following examination of the evidence and considering the views received during its consultation.

The schools that are considering the option of becoming an academy as a group of schools working in partnership, are:

- Carshalton Boys Sports College
- Carshalton High School for Girls
- Cheam High School
- Glenthorne High School
- Greenshaw High School
- John Fisher School
- Nonsuch High School for Girls
- Overton Grange School
- St. Philomena's Catholic High School for Girls
- Stanley Park High School
- Sutton Grammar School for Boys
- Wallington County Grammar for Boys
- Wallington High School for Girls
- Wilson's School
- Wandle Valley School (EBD Special School 5–16)