

GREENSHAW

HIGH SCHOOL

28 February 2011

Dear Colleagues

Consultation on possible move to academy status

The Governing Body of Greenshaw High School believes that it should seriously consider whether the school should become an academy. In so doing, as well as gathering expert advice and evidence, it wishes to know the views of its stakeholders, including all staff, before deciding whether academy status is right for our school.

The Government has stated that it wishes all schools in England and Wales to become academies, and is encouraging groups of schools to become academies together. Academy status would give the school additional freedoms from the local authority and greater control over how it spends its budget.

All Sutton's secondary schools including Greenshaw have been considering the possibility of becoming autonomous academies working together collectively to maintain and develop the strong partnership that exists between the schools.

Whether or not the school were to become an academy, the Governing Body is committed to: maintaining the essential character and operation of the school as it is; continuing with current admission arrangements; maintaining current nationally agreed pay and conditions for all existing and new staff; and continuing to work in partnership with the other secondary schools in Sutton and with the local authority.

Please find enclosed an information leaflet on how the change of status to become an academy would affect Greenshaw High School.

Information about the consideration of academy status can be found on the school website, www.greenshaw.co.uk, and further information about the academies programme is available from the Department for Education website: www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies

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You can give your views on whether or not the School should apply for academy status by:

- Writing to the Clerk to the Governors, Linda Welch, at the usual school address
- Sending an email to Linda Welch, Clerk to the Governors at lwelch@suttonlea.org

We will also be meeting with union representatives to discuss the issues around the option of converting to academy status, and you may wish to make your views known to them.

The deadline for sending in your comments is 9am on Thursday 31st March.

You are also invited to attend a staff consultation meeting at the school **on Tuesday 15th March at 4 pm** to discuss the option of Greenshaw becoming an academy and have the chance to ask questions and give your views. Please inform Linda Welch if you would like to attend. We will also be meeting with support staff and teaching staff union representatives on 23rd March.

As part of the consultation process we will also be conducting an equality impact survey.

If the Governing Body decide to proceed to become an academy, staff would transfer under TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment) regulations, which means that they transfer with current pay and conditions, and there would be a formal TUPE consultation with all staff and union representatives in May.

The Governing Body will decide whether or not to apply for academy status on the basis of what it believes to be in the best interests of the school, having carefully considered the issues and the evidence, and the views received from parents and carers, staff, students and stakeholders in the wider community.

The Governing Body intends to take its decision at the beginning of April and we will write to you again to explain what it has decided.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school using the contact details above.

Yours sincerely



Mike Cooper
Chairman of the Governing Body



William Smith
Headteacher

Enclosed: *Academy Status: What it would mean for Greenshaw High School*