



Thursday 1st December 2011

Dear Parent / Carer

Prince Henry's has today converted to Academy status. This decision was taken as it will help to maintain all that is good about Prince Henry's Grammar School and also provide opportunities to progress further in our ambition to improve educational provision. Academy status gives us more control over our entire budget so that we can spend it on the things that our students need most. This will help us to build on our strengths and move closer to achieving our vision of a 'highly successful, world class learning community'.

What Changes Will Academy Status Bring?

There are many misconceptions about what Academy status will mean so we have put extra information on the school's website (www.princehenrys.co.uk) to help dispel some of the myths that are circulating. The truth is that you are unlikely to notice any change at all except, we believe, a continued improvement in educational provision. Prince Henry's Grammar School will continue to work and develop according to our existing ethos and culture. It will remain a fully comprehensive and inclusive 11-18 non-selective school with a specialism in languages and global citizenship. The Funding Agreement and Articles of Association (the latter is available to view on our website) form the legal basis of how the Academy will operate both now and in the future. These documents include the following statements as part of the conditions and requirements:

- the school will be at the heart of its community, promoting community cohesion and sharing facilities with other schools and the wider community;
- the admissions policy and arrangements for the school will be in accordance with admissions law, and the Department for Education (DfE) Codes of Practice, as they apply to maintained schools;
- there will be an emphasis on the needs of the individual pupils including pupils with special education needs (SEN), both those with and without statements of SEN
- the curriculum provided by the Academy to pupils up to the age of 16 shall be broad and balanced with an emphasis in its secondary curriculum on languages
- the school provides education for pupils who are wholly or mainly drawn from the area in which the school is situated.
- the school provides education for pupils of different abilities

Community Links

Prince Henry's will continue to play an important role in the local community and the Local Authority. In fact Academy status will help us to strengthen our partnership work with local

primary and high schools in the North West of Leeds. We are already investigating potential efficiencies of joint procurement with our local feeder primary schools and the extra funding will allow us to support this development.

Our well established Community Education Programme will also be unaffected by the conversion to Academy status, and will continue to run on a “not for profit” basis to support lifelong learning opportunities for the local community.

Governance and Parent Engagement

The new governing body structure has an increased proportion of elected parent and staff governors (over 50%) to ensure that the school remains at the heart of its community. Responsibility for the strategic direction and management of the school remains with the governing body. The Academy Trust Board, which ordinarily will meet only once a year to review the school’s finances and progress, is made up of two Parent Governors and three governors from the school’s Foundation Governing Body – including the Chair of the Foundation Governors who has been associated with Prince Henry’s for a great many years. Currently we have three Parent Governor vacancies and details of the election process for these vacancies will be published soon after Christmas. For parents who don’t want to be a governor, but would like to be involved in improving the school, we will continue to hold termly Parent and Carer Consultation Evenings and encourage parents to take advantage of the opportunity they provide to contribute to the future development of the school.

Land and Buildings

No sponsorship or business involvement is required or planned for the Academy. The school’s Foundation Trust will retain ownership of the land and school assets, as it has done for over 400 years. Chippindale Swimming Pool has always been funded and managed by Leeds City Council Sport and Active Recreation Department and conversion to Academy status will not change this arrangement. Governors fully support the provision of community swimming at Prince Henry’s.

Finally it is important to re-state that:

- the school will continue to be called Prince Henry’s Grammar School
- the school uniform, sixth form dress code, term dates and length of the school day will not change as a result of becoming an Academy
- Admissions Policy for the school will not change as a result of becoming an Academy
- Students with special educational needs will continue to be supported at the same level using statutory central funding from Leeds, augmented by dedicated funding from the Academy.

Governors remain committed to providing the very best educational opportunities for the children of our community, both now and in the years to come. The decision to convert to Academy status has been taken to achieve this end.

Yours sincerely



Paul Tranter
Chair of Governors



Janet Sheriff
Headteacher