



Amwell View School and Specialist Sports College

Stanstead Abbots, Nr. Ware, Station Road, Hertfordshire, SG12 8EH

Headteacher: Mrs Jan Liversage
B. Ed., Ad. Dip., B. Phil. (MSI)

Newsletter No 442

27th January 2017

Dear Parents

Academy Status – Parent Consultation and Meeting:

The Governing Body of Amwell View School & Specialist Sports College has decided that it should further investigate converting to Academy Status. As a school judged as Outstanding three times (2007, 2010 and September 2014), we are well placed for this development.

As part of the decision-making process, we would like to consult with parents formally on any views, questions or concerns you may have. A useful speech to read is 'The role freedom and autonomy has played in school improvement', which can be read on the DfE website www.dfe.gov.uk. Further information about Academies can be obtained from the website.

Government had expected to force through academisation to all schools last year through a white paper, but this was abandoned in October 2016. However it is still expected that schools will move to become an academy by 2022. Although this may seem a long way off the Governing Body of this school would like to be in charge of the school's destiny rather than be forced into a decision without choices. The growth of Academies has prompted the development of Multi-Academy Trusts, which places decision making in a domain outside the school. This is not a desirable position for Amwell View School as we believe that we have the expertise, skills and knowledge to manage our own affairs. Our success over the years confirms this view which is further endorsed by Ofsted.

We intend to give careful consideration to the reasons for and against becoming an Academy. The Governing Body supports the intention to maintain teaching standards, staffing levels and the curriculum. Academy Status would continue to enable the Governors to be in direct control of budgeting matters. All funding would be directly allocated to the school from the Department for Education (DfE). Hertfordshire would continue to provide central services, such as Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language Therapists and Physiotherapists. The Governing body will ensure that we continue to provide the best possible value for money and quality of services to match every pupil's needs.

It is important to gain your views and therefore we will be holding a **Parent Consultation evening on Thursday 23rd February 2017, at 6.45pm** about moving towards Single Academy status. If you wish to offer any questions in advance, you can email them to the clerk of the Governors janet.warrington@amwell.herts.sch.uk

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For parents who cannot attend the consultation we will produce a summary of comments, questions and answers and post them on the school website.

This consultation is part of an official Academy consultation process, which includes consultation with all staff, other interested parties and other local schools. The consultation period will close on **Monday 27th February 2017**, after which the Governors will meet on **Monday 6th March 2017** to make a decision as to whether to proceed with the conversion process. The decision of the Governors' will be communicated promptly after the meeting.

I look forward to receiving your views on whether the school should become an Academy.

Yours sincerely



Mr Joe McCarthy
Chair of the Governing Body