



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL

LICHFIELD

School Status Update - March 2016

Dear Parents

As you know, it is over a year since we carried out an initial consultation about the possibility of setting up a Multi-Academy Trust. Over the last twelve months, the governors have actively engaged in a process of investigation and consultation.

During this time, the school has also had to deal with a number of pressing changes. As a Staffordshire school we are in a similar position to many schools and are having to make significant reductions in staffing and other spending to balance the budget. The Education Services Grant has reduced over the last few years and the recent government budget statement indicated a further reduction. This will ultimately mean less additional money coming direct to the school to provide the services currently coming via the Local Authority. We are already facing a further reduction in the budget for 2016/17. Any change by the Department for Education towards fairer national funding would take a number of years to agree and implement. We certainly cannot afford to be in a position where it would cost us more to operate as an academy, either in the short or longer term.

In school we make decisions every day which prioritise learning and teaching for students. We have made great strides in a number of areas and we have seen achievement rise across key subjects. However, there is always more to do and at present, particularly considering the huge amount of curriculum change, we need to ensure that the focus is clearly on supporting and implementing curriculum development.

There is a risk in maintaining our current status. As a community school we are potentially vulnerable to a sudden policy change or other unanticipated change leading to academisation. However, as student achievement comes first then this has to be weighed against the risks outlined above.

In reviewing our position, we have had discussions with The Long Eaton School. Both schools are clearly focused on outcomes for students and are both of the view that to fully engage in the process at present would put that at risk. We do not believe that we should pursue the creation of a Multi-Academy Trust at this time. We will continue to work on projects of mutual interest where the opportunity arises.

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Governors will continue to review the school's position regularly but no further action will be taken at present. We continue to value our partnerships with other schools in a range of areas including teacher training, staff development, curriculum development and the sharing of good practice. Our priority is to see a continued rise in student achievement and this is best achieved by ensuring high quality learning and teaching.

Thank you for your continued support of the school. Should circumstances allow us to reassess the multi-academy route, then we will obviously contact parents at the earliest opportunity. Governors welcome feedback from parents and we will be in touch later in the year to share opportunities to join the governing body.

Yours sincerely



Christopher Cartwright
Chair of Governors



Jane Rutherford (Ms)
Headteacher