



21st June 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

Proposed Conversion to Academy Status

The Governing body of Helston Community College have been working with our partner schools in establishing a co-operative multi-academy trust to build on the excellent partnership work to date and to maintain that partnership into the future for its educational and financial benefits.

Over the course of this year, we have held several information sessions for parents and staff. We have also updated you through the College newsletters and the website. There is a Frequently Asked Questions Page and other documents relating to the proposed Trust on our College website for you to find out more. There has also been press coverage of the proposals.

In accordance with the requirements of the Academies Act 2010, the Governing body of Helston Community College is consulting on whether the College's academy conversion should take place. Further information about what becoming an academy means, and how to comment on the proposals, is set out below.

We will be holding formal consultation sessions for parents and the wider community at the following locations, to enable you to ask any further questions and to provide us with your feedback:

- Mullion Secondary School - Monday 27th June at 6pm
- Porthleven School - Wednesday 29th June at 6pm
- Helston Community College - Monday 4th July at 6pm

Please do familiarise yourself with the documentation regarding the Multi-Academy Trust on the College website, prior to the meeting.

The Governing Body will consider all the feedback from the consultation sessions, prior to making their final decision to join the Multi-Academy Trust.

Will Helston Community College definitely become an academy?

The Governing body has submitted an application to convert to academy status and is working towards a conversion in December 2016. However, the College is not obligated to become an academy until the contract between the Academy Trust and the Department for Education (known as the Funding Agreement) is signed.

The Academy Trust will not sign the Funding Agreement until parents and carers of pupils at the College, staff at the College and pupils themselves have had the opportunity to comment on whether the academy conversion should take place.

Any comments or representations which are made about the proposals will be considered before a decision is taken to sign the funding agreement. Details of how to provide comments and representations are set out below.

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What is an academy? (see College website for more details)

An academy is essentially a school which is independent of the local authority and receives its funding direct from Government.

Will Admissions arrangements be changed?

As a foundation trust / voluntary aided school, Helston Community College already deals with its own admission arrangements. As an academy, Southerly Point Cooperative Trust will deal with admission arrangements and would still be bound by the national Admissions Code and Admissions Appeals Code. If, in the future, there were plans to change the admissions arrangements, consultation would be required.

Will staff leave?

If the College converts to an academy, all staff currently employed by the College will automatically transfer to the new academy on their pay and conditions. Although the academy will have more freedom to amend those pay and conditions in the future, there are no plans to do this at the current time and any future change would require consultation with staff representatives.

How can I make representations?

To respond to this consultation on whether the College's academy conversion should take place, representations can be made in writing to the Trust administrator, Karen Teague:

K Teague
Parc Eglos School
Church Hill
Helston

Or by email to:

kteague@parc-eglos.cornwall.sch.uk

The closing date for representations to be made is **Friday 15th July 2016**.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Donna Bryant
Head Teacher
Helston Community College