

38 Parents attended

Questions

**Would the school's name change?**

This would be something for governors to determine. Conversion to academy status does not prevent the school from retaining its existing name.

**What are the potential disadvantages?**

We do not see any significant disadvantages, though there would be new challenges. For example, governors and school leaders would take on additional responsibilities, and the body to which the school would be accountable for its performance would be the Trust and not the LA.

**Is conversion to academy status due to the school's fall in the league tables?**

Recent exam results included an 8% improvement on the previous year in students achieving 5A\*-C GCSEs including English and mathematics, the best performance in the school's history. Conversion to academy status and the associated partnership is seen as a means by which the school can maintain the upward trend in its performance.

**Do we get individual funding or is it shared between the Academies?**

The school will be funded directly from central government.

**Locality of schools – why this partnership?**

We have a successful existing relationship with Ossett Academy, an outstanding school which is led by a National Leader in Education. The proposed partnership also includes Hall Cross School in Doncaster, a rapidly improving school which is fully committed to mutual support and accountability.

**Aside from the administration, what about the effect on students?**

As in all things that we do, the best interests of our students is the prime consideration. Conversion to Academy status provides the potential for us to improve their learning, experience of school and achievement in a wide range of ways. In particular, it will afford the school greater freedom to make strategic decisions based upon the specific context and needs of our school.

**What if it doesn't work out (within the partnership)?**

The proposed partnership will be underpinned by protocols which are legally binding and not dependent upon the individual relationships which exist between the headteachers of the schools involved. The significant change in the role and influence of the Local Authority has required all schools in Doncaster to realign themselves and develop new partnership arrangements. The view of the governors is that the proposal under consideration represents the best option for our school.

**To Chair – What made you choose this option?**

The governors have carefully considered the opportunities available to the school within the context of the national trend towards academisation. As a result of an options appraisal, which included contact with other potential partners, the proposal which has been presented was judged to be the most attractive for the school.

**Conversion date / when do you find out when you can become an academy?**

Initially it was hoped that the school would be able to convert to Academy status before the end of this year, if this is the course governors choose following the consultation period. However, the number of schools nationally which are applying, together with the need to satisfy ministers that our proposal represents the best option for the school, will inevitably delay conversion until early in 2012.

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**Would there be parental consultation and opportunities for feedback, if the school intended to make changes, eg curriculum, calendar changes.**

The school places a high value on the views and feedback of parents, and will continue to consult as often and as widely as possible. Though we have a number of existing mechanisms for consultation, we are still concerned that we do not receive enough parental engagement. We are looking at ways of addressing this.