

17 April 2018

Dear Parents

re Consultation regarding joining the Learning Academy Trust

You will be aware that I wrote to you last term to outline the proposal that The Spires College converts to academy status and joins the Learning Academy Partnership (LAP) multi-academy trust (MAT). The consultation closed on 21 March and I would like to thank everyone who responded to the consultation, either in writing or at the meeting for parents; I very much appreciate your time and your support of the college.

The governing body has now met to consider the feedback from the consultation and voted to go ahead with the proposed course of action. The continued success of the college and its students remains the primary concern for both governors and staff at the college, and we are now beginning the process of ensuring that our partnership with the LAP contributes positively to this.

The consultation raised several useful and valid questions. I thought it may be helpful to outline the answers to some of these here for the benefit of those parents and carers who were unable to attend the meeting.

The first point is that I will remain here as Principal and the vision and ethos for the college that we have established in recent years will not change.

Our bilateral status will not change.

The Spires College has no religious affiliation and this will not change. We will continue to give our students an understanding of all religions and cultures, and teach the importance of maintaining positive values and respecting the beliefs of others.

There will be no changes to the school day, term dates or to the college uniform, logo or 'branding'.

This will not impact on staffing. The pay and conditions for all staff will remain the same and the change will not render any posts redundant. Indeed, the only change likely is that staff numbers will increase but this is due to the increasing popularity of the college, not due to academy conversion. Our staff have all been consulted on the proposal too and the feedback has been positive.

It is true that the LAP is currently only made up of primary schools however our hope for this partnership is that it will contribute positively to our community. Some of our nearest primary schools are members of the LAP and so this will allow us to strengthen our learning community. The Spires College will benefit because we will be able to focus strongly on our understanding of the primary curriculum and ensure that we are building on this most effectively. Within an 0-19 MAT, we will be better placed to develop our work with families over time to strengthen our pastoral offer. It may be that, in time, the LAP will grow to include other secondary schools. This would provide wider opportunities, particularly in areas such as staff development. However this is something that would have to be approached steadily in order to ensure it was to the benefit of all.

I hope this answers any remaining questions you may have. The Spires College remains my priority and my team and I will work hard to ensure this is the best possible decision for our students.

We now begin the process of converting to academy status. Obviously it would be good for the conversion to coincide with the start of a new academic year and so we will aim for September 2018. However the process can be lengthy so this may be ambitious! I will, of course, keep you updated. Should you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Newton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alex Newton
Principal