

“The rising tide lifts all the boats.”

Friday 28th April, 2017

Dear all

I can't quite believe we are already entering the Summer Term! Where does time go?

I am writing to you all to briefly update you on the process of academy conversion for schools in the Compass Partnership. As you will already know, we have been managing this process for over a year now and have pushed back the proposed date for conversion a number of times. This is partly due to the complexity of converting six schools at once but is mainly due to the depth and quality of the due diligence processes undertaken by leaders, governors and trustees. We are absolutely committed to ensuring that we convert at the right time and with the best possible assurances in place to enable our schools to continue to thrive; these underlying principles have been key factors in extending the timescale for conversion.

We are now very hopeful that the last piece of the jigsaw should be in place for trustees to satisfy themselves as to the multi-academy trust's (MAT) viability going forward. As a potential MAT, we had submitted ten bids to the government for investment in our school buildings for works for which the Local Authority (LA) were not able to provide support, even if the schools remained as maintained LA schools. We received the outcome of these bids at the beginning of the Easter break and governors and trustees immediately reviewed the bid outcomes before deciding whether to proceed with conversion. I am pleased to inform you that we were successful in securing six out of ten of the bids – a total of **£1,105,507** of capital investment. The governors and trustees feel that this is a great result, and addresses many of the priority works required across the six schools and are, as a result, satisfied that all necessary pieces are in place to convert successfully. We therefore intend to proceed with conversion to academy status on July 1st 2017 (subject only to any administrative issues on the part of the Department for Education resulting from the recently announced snap election – we will of course update you if we hear more in this respect).

The Compass Partnership



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As previously discussed, the Wingfield Governing Body also voted to convert to academy status as part of the Compass Partnership, and the school will convert once the new building has been completed later next year. In the interim period, Wingfield will continue to work in partnership with the Compass schools.

As you will no doubt have seen in the media over the past year, schools face real time cuts of 4% year on year in London. Leaders, governors and trustees are working hard to prepare for the impact of these cuts to ensure that the education that your children receive remains of a consistently high standard. We are aware that we will have to do things differently in the future, and are in a strong position as an established partnership of schools to work together to mitigate against the financial challenges ahead.

As a group of schools, we remain firmly committed to ensuring our schools remain unique places of learning at the heart of their communities and believe the conversion to academy status is the most prudent strategy at the present time for maintaining this.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions regarding the process.

John Camp

Senior Executive Headteacher
The Compass Partnership of Schools