

16 February 2017

Dear Parents & Carers

In previous communications I have shared the details of Governing Body's discussions around academisation. You will all be aware that the government announced in 2015 that all schools would become academies by 2022. The government's plan was to pass legislation in 2016 to compel all schools to academise and that this plan was later abandoned. However, the determination that all schools be academies in the near future is unchanged. All information from both the National Schools Commissioner and Regional Schools Commissioner is clear; all schools are expected to academise.

With this in mind, the governing body has been exploring High Storrs School's options. At a meeting on 8 November, 2016 the full governing body accepted that academisation was extremely likely within the next year and decided to investigate in detail the school's options. A final decision would be made at a later full governing body meeting following consultation with all stakeholders. It is now no longer possible for any school to become a 'stand-alone academy' or, indeed, an empty Multi-Academy Trust (ie to be a lone academy in any form). Possible options now available include forming or joining a Multi-Academy Trust. We are currently consulting with a number of schools in both the local area and more widely across Sheffield.

You will appreciate then that our discussions and plans centre around how we maximise opportunities for High Storrs School and, of course, secure and protect our unique ethos and all that we value most highly about our school. Any choice we make must be of benefit to all. With these principles in mind, we continue our discussions.

We will, of course, continue to update you all as we work to explore ways to ensure academisation is a positive and beneficial next step for our school.

Yours faithfully

David Mowbray
Chair of Governing Body