

Headteacher: Mrs C Tasker MA (Cantab)

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www.highstorrs.co.uk



A "High Performing Specialist School"

4 May 2017

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Students

The Governing Board of High Storrs School has voted to write a letter of intent to the Regional Schools Commissioner stating its intention to join Minerva, a Sheffield-wide Multi Academy Trust (MAT). This decision is subject to further due diligence and full consultation with stakeholders.

The decision has not been taken lightly; a huge amount of research has been undertaken and there have been hours of discussion and deliberation. The key guiding principle has been to preserve the unique ethos of our school and build a partnership that enriches and further develops our school rather than change it. Crucially we are joining this MAT of Sheffield Secondary Schools from its inception; we will be co-creating a MAT to strengthen teaching and learning across Sheffield. Our initial partners in the MAT will be Handsworth Grange Community Sports College, King Edward VII School and Stocksbridge High School. It is our hope that other Sheffield Secondary and Primary Schools will join the MAT moving forward. We are proud to be building something that is **in** Sheffield and **for** Sheffield and see huge benefits in working with some similar and some very different Sheffield schools – there will be much to learn and much to share.

In identifying MAT partners we have sought schools who, whilst wishing to work together, also wish to avoid a centralised structure, all partners wish the schools to retain a high degree of local autonomy. Forming a MAT is not a merger of the schools. The schools work together at a high level, sharing best practice and where appropriate resources. Students will continue to attend High Storrs School and we are not proposing any changes to the admission's policy, catchment area etc.

It is not a given that the schools will convert or that the academy application will be approved as there is still a lot of work to do.

We do appreciate that some members of the community are apprehensive about academisation and we have already received a number of understandable questions and comments. We have added these, along with our responses, to our FAQs (to be found on the school website at www.highstorrs.co.uk/ "School Information / Academisation Consultation". We will continue to update this as we receive further questions and comments; we would urge you to read these.

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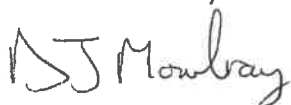


Specialist Schools
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EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



The questions and responses are the first step in our full, formal consultation process. In the coming weeks we will be offering students and staff the opportunity to attend Q and A sessions. We will also be offering parents/carers the opportunity to attend face to face meetings with members of the school leadership and the governing body on either Tuesday 23 or Thursday 25 May 2017. If you would like to attend please do share your name and contact details on the reply slip below (please return the slip via your child to Student Reception). Equally, do keep sending your questions and comments to enquiries@highstorrssheffield.sch.uk with 'Academisation Consultation' in the subject box. You can also post questions to the school; please address envelopes to the Head Teacher marked 'Academisation'.

Yours sincerely



David Mowbray
Chair of Governors



Academisation Q&A sessions

Please return this slip to Student Reception by Wednesday 17 May 2017 at 9am

I (name): _____ would like to attend a short academisation Q&A session at High Storrs School on:

Date	Preferred 10-15 minute Time Slot (between these times)	Tick one box only below ✓
Tuesday 23 May 2017	5-6pm	
Tuesday 23 May 2017	6-7pm	
Thursday 25 May 2017	5-6pm	
Thursday 25 May 2017	6-7pm	

Child's name: _____ Form: _____