



CS/YB

19 March 2007

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer

CONSULTATION RE TRUST AND FOUNDATION STATUS

Our school, in partnership with three other local secondary schools and with representatives from further and higher education and local business, is thinking of becoming a trust status school. This letter is to explain our ideas and proposals and to ask for your views.

Trust Schools

Trust schools are a new kind of school. They remain part of the Local Authority system, but one supported by a charitable trust, which will appoint a minority of two Governors. The remaining make-up of the Governing Body will continue to comprise elected parent, community and staff governors and one each of a Local Authority and Headteacher governor.

The Governing Body will continue to have responsibility for the running of the school and will still be responsible for its operation, performance and budget.

Our trust may involve the following partners: Abbs Cross, The Chafford and Sanders Draper schools, Havering Sixth Form College, Havering College of Further Education, The University of East London, the Local Authority, The Centre for Engineering and Manufacturing Excellence, the Institute of Education and local and national businesses.

The purpose of our trust is to focus on raising standards of achievement and to provide a coherent structure within which the pupils in the four schools will have access to the new 14-19 vocational Diplomas. Each school will build on its specialisms to offer vocational courses for all pupils in all partner schools, for example, in our school, engineering, catering and construction. These new Diplomas will start to be introduced from September 2008.

The introduction of our new school curriculum in September 2005 has helped to pave the way for the introduction of these new vocational courses. The phased contraction of Key Stage 3, together with the introduction of earlier options, will ensure we have adequate time in our curriculum model for all students to avail themselves of these new vocational courses if they choose to do so.

The school will set its own admission arrangements, but will be bound by the School Admissions Code. This means that we will continue to have fair admissions and that we will not introduce any selection by ability. We expect to keep very similar arrangements and criteria to what we have now.

If the school acquires a Trust, the existing rights of teachers will be protected. We will still be bound by the school Teachers' Pay and Conditions document. All staff in the school will be employed by the Governing Body and all staff will be covered by TUPE arrangements, which safeguard current terms and conditions. We will also continue to recognise the same unions.

You can comment up to Tuesday 3 May 2007. Written responses can be forwarded to me c/o the school and there will be a meeting at the school for parents at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday 19 April in the school hall.

Governors will meet on Wednesday 9 May to review all the comments and then make a decision whether to go ahead (and whether to amend the proposals to reflect your suggestions and concerns).

Yours sincerely

C Saunders
Chair of Governors