

Parents' Forum Wednesday 23rd November

The focus of the meeting was Academy Trust Status.

Mr Southall gave a presentation about what Academy Trust Status is and the perceived advantages and disadvantages to the College. This presentation is attached.

Parents were then able to discuss this issue amongst themselves before the opportunity to ask questions at the end of the meeting. The questions asked and Mr Southall's answers can be seen below.

1. How would the catchment for the school change?

We would not anticipate any changes to the catchment area of the school. We intend to keep the current Pupil Admission Number (PAN) i.e. 300 pupils in each year group. However, with the current rate of conversion to Academy Status, it is anticipated that catchment areas will cease to exist shortly.

2. Will Brockington become an 11-16 school?

We would be prepared to explore whether 11-16 status is in the best interests of our pupils and the community.

3. How will transport to school be funded?

It is essential to ensure that the current conditions around pupil transport remain in place. We would not wish to lose pupils that currently live in the catchment area, because transport was no longer available.

4. Why are the teaching unions opposed to Academy Status if schools are saying they will protect teachers' pay and conditions?

Unions have concerns that Academies are not bound by School Teachers' Pay and Conditions and that following conversion, Academies can change pay and conditions. If an Academy offers unfavourable pay and conditions then they would lose valued members of staff. For this reason, this is something that we would not consider.

5. Does Mr Southall want Academy Status?

I want the best for the pupils of Brockington College. We are in a rapidly changing world and a decision not to convert to Academy Status is equally a decision that involves major change, by staying with a Local Authority that will be greatly diminished.

6. Could school introduce their own selection policy? (all about results!)

The governing body believe in inclusion for all pupils and have no intention of changing our current Admission Policy. As a VA school, this is something that we could currently do but have chosen not to.

7. 11-16 or 11-19 considered?

For 11-19 status, a school would require specialised facilities and staffing that go beyond 11-14 or 11-16 status. It is essential that any school can provide these resources before considering a change in status.

8. Who will be the governing body?

The governing body will remain as it currently is, but with a small number of Directors appointed from the governing body.

9. Will pupils increase/decrease? - How many children to take on?

Due to the size of the building and amount of teaching areas, our Pupil Admission Number (PAN) for the school is 900 pupils.

10. Catchment area? How? First come basis?

The Admissions Policy will not be changed and one factor within the policy is the distance that pupils live from the school.

11. Cost to convert to academy?

There are a number of costs involved in converting to Academy Status. However, there is a government grant available to all schools that convert. The amount available is £25,000, which will cover all conversion costs.

12. Without a Local Authority, who ensures that standards remain high?

OFSTED will still carry out inspections of all schools, which includes Academies.