



April 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the Hunters Bar Infant and Junior Community

This letter is to keep you up to date with how our Boards of Governors and Head Teachers are approaching significant changes to local and national education together, ensuring continuity and stability for all our pupils.

Academisation is a key feature of government policy. Academies are independent of the LA but are still state-funded; receiving funding directly from central government. The day-to-day running of the school is by the Head Teacher, but they are overseen by individual charitable bodies called Academy Trusts. Schools within a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) share good practice, support improvements across the family of schools and can benefit from economies of scale when buying in services etc.

In Sheffield twenty three out of the twenty five secondary schools have become academies, together with over a third of primary schools. The government wants all schools to become academies and further changes are expected locally.

Schools like ours, which are run well and achieve good results for their pupils are not currently forced to do this. However, as Governors, we must properly investigate the potential opportunities and freedoms offered by joining the right partners in an existing Multi Academy Trust (MAT) or in forming a new one. We need to be aware that the number of options and potential partners will decrease with time. Also, that the local authority's involvement with maintained schools may cease to be viable as more academise. In this scenario, our freedom of choice will disappear.

We want to protect our schools' unique characteristics and ethos. These could be threatened if we were compelled to join a large MAT at a later date. We believe that it is vital to ensure that the special character of our schools is maintained and that we retain as much local autonomy as possible.

To this end, we will be consulting with staff and with you as we develop more clarity about the best way forward and whether there is an academy model which could work well for us. Further information and FAQ pages will be available shortly, please go to the HBI website for this as the HBJ website is currently under development.

If you have questions you would like to raise in the meantime, or any comments you would like to share then please email them to enquiries@huntersbar-jun.sheffield.sch.uk or enquiries@huntersbar-inf@sheffield.sch.uk with 'Academisation Consultation' in the subject box. You can also post questions to the school; please address envelopes to the Head Teacher and mark 'Academisation'. We will post comments and questions received along with answers on the website as quickly as possible.

Please indicate with your questions/comments your name and category of stakeholder (parent/carer, student, staff, community). We cannot take anonymous responses into account. We are proud of our schools and hope that you are too. Your support, questions and contributions will help us make sure that we preserve what we do well and find ways to keep helping all of the Hunters Bar children reach their full potential.

Yours sincerely

Yogi Amin
Chair of Governors HBJS

Michael Watson
Head Teacher HBJS

Laura Fitzgerald
Chair of Governors HBIS

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