

Our ref: PA/Academisation/170911DRU – Consultation on Conversion to Academy Status

11<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Community Stakeholder,

**Re: Consultation on Conversion to Academy Status – King Richard School**

In Autumn 2010, the Department for Education (DfE) offered a range of schools the opportunity to become academies. The Academies Programme continues to grow and the Government is still encouraging schools to consider this opportunity, believing that academy status gives schools new freedoms, greater flexibilities and more control over their finances so that they can continue to drive up standards.

A key focus of any Local Governing Body's (LGB) remit is to consider how best their school can be run in the future and, to that end, the LGB of King Richard School have been researching to assess whether becoming an academy would bring more opportunities for our pupils and further improve our school.

Having carefully considered the issues, the Governors are in no doubt that becoming an academy at this time will be in the best interests of our pupils, staff and the local community. At the full LGB meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017, the LGB voted unanimously to explore this opportunity and apply to the Secretary of State for Education for an Academy Order to allow us to further progress in our aim to become an academy.

In addition, we believe that the benefits of such a move may be enhanced if we joined a Multi-Academy Trust with the experience and resource to help us to continue to thrive. We are therefore recommending that King Richard School should convert to academy status and become part of the family of academies sponsored by United Learning. This would be subject to our application to become an academy being accepted.

United Learning is a national group of academies and independent schools. Its ethos is to bring out *"the best in everyone"* – pupils, staff, parents and the wider community.

Beacon View and The Victory Primary Schools, from which many of our pupils graduate before coming to King Richard School, joined United Learning in 2013. We already collaborate with the primary schools of Paulsgrove, but we believe joining United Learning will further strengthen these links.

United Learning runs over 40 secondary schools across the country including a number of secondary academies along the South Coast, including The Regis School in Bognor Regis, Midhurst Rother College, Shoreham Academy and Glenmoor and Winton Academies in Bournemouth. The Group has worked closely with these schools to achieve long term success for their pupils, staff and communities.



As part of the conversion, the school's assets and liabilities would be transferred from the King Richard School Trust to United Learning and therefore the King Richard School Trust would no longer be needed and would dissolve. Any development to or use of these assets would be subject to scrutiny by the Secretary of State.

Over this coming half term, we will be conducting a consultation into the proposal to become an academy and, if accepted, to do so with United Learning. This process will give you more information about how it would work and give you the opportunity to meet representatives of United Learning.

We have therefore arranged a meeting for any interested community stakeholders which I hope you will take the opportunity to attend. We will be joined by Stephen Adcock, United Learning's Deputy Director of Secondary Education, who will talk more about the proposal and be very happy to answer any questions.

The meeting will be held on **Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> of September at 5.30pm** at King Richard School in the main school hall.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the meetings. If you are unable to attend and/or have comments that you wish to submit as part of the consultation, we would be delighted to hear from you. We would be grateful if any thoughts or feedback could be sent to the LGB via the school office or this designated email address: [academyconsultation@kingrichardschool.net](mailto:academyconsultation@kingrichardschool.net). Please submit any feedback/comments by the end of Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> October.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this letter and, on behalf of the LGB at King Richard School, we look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Yours sincerely,



**Dave Russell**  
**Chair, King Richard Local Governing Body**

