



the  
**KINGSWOODSCHOOL**  
a specialist arts college

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15<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Dear Parent/Guardian

As you may be aware, there are many changes happening in education at the moment and many schools are considering the way of moving forward as Academies. The Governing Body has discussed these issues in great detail and, after careful consideration, we believe it would be in the best interest of the school, its students and the local community to take this step to become an Academy as part of the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust.

We would like to know your thoughts on this topic and are inviting all school stakeholders to share their views on this important and exciting change. The consultation process begins on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May and lasts until Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

The consultation process concentrates on two questions:

- Should the Kingswood School become an Academy and
- Should the sponsor of this new Academy be the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust?

### **What is an Academy?**

An Academy is a publically funded independent school, accountable to the Government and provides free education in the local community. Funding to run the Academy is on the same basis as other schools and comes directly from the local Government.

### **What are the benefits of becoming an Academy?**

- Academies are independent of Local Authority control – this means that Academies have more freedom over setting their curriculum and budget spending.
- Academies receive their funding directly from central government – this allows greater flexibility with the budget which may include purchasing services previously bought from the Local Authority.
- Academies employ staff directly and all existing staff would transfer to the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust in accordance with the Transfer of Undertakings and Protection of Employment (TUPE) legislation.

### **What are the benefits of joining the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust?**

#### High Quality School Improvement:

The Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust (GDFT) is an established Academy sponsor with an excellent track record in school improvement and an established background in educational experience and expertise. As part of the Trust we would be able to continue

to build on our successes by sharing our expertise with other schools, as well as benefitting from support from other schools within the Trust to further develop our own practice.

#### Enriching and extending the curriculum:

The Trust firmly believes in learning through experiences outside the classroom and the power of learning through extracurricular activities. Through these activities students can gain new skills, develop confidence and independence.

#### Services:

The GDFT has a Central Team that would provide a range of high quality services such as human resources, payroll, health and safety, procurement, catering, data, curriculum development and extended opportunities. These services are already established and would support our school, thus allowing the leadership and teaching team to focus on continuing to developing the quality of teaching and learning.

#### Procurement:

We would be able to provide best value for our pupils through the purchasing opportunities the GDFT would provide, allowing us to access resources and services at lower costs.

#### **How can I find out more and share my views?**

This letter is a formal invitation for you to share your thoughts and raise any questions you may have about a potential conversion to an Academy.

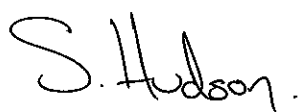
We will also be holding an Open Academy Consultation Meeting at the school on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at 6.00 p.m.**, where Scott Hudson (Headteacher) and Barry Day (Chief Executive of the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust) will be available to speak to you and answer any questions you may have. This will also be an opportunity to hear why the Governing Body took the decision to initiate the Academy conversion process. This meeting is open to parents of students attending the Kingswood School and members of the local community served by the school.

In addition, Scott Hudson, Barry Day and other members of GDFT will be available from 5.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. at the school on the evening of 4<sup>th</sup> June 2013 to meet with individuals.

During the consultation period, Governors also plan to hold meetings with staff and union representatives.

If you would like to let us know your views please send your written responses to the school office. We look forward to receiving your thoughts and your involvement in the process.

Kind regards



**Scott Hudson**  
**Headteacher**