



Crawshaw School

Live Local, Think Global

Headteacher Mrs Joanna Ruse B.A M.Ed

Thursday 1st December 2011

Dear Parent / Carer,

On Monday 28th November, Crawshaw School's Governing Body voted to consult on a change from Trust to Academy status. I write to you in order to begin that consultation.

We have been a Trust school since October 2010 and that means that the Governing Body are already the employers of the staff. The land and buildings are held in Trust by Crawshaw Partnership Trust. I hope you read our latest Trust Newsletter which outlined how we have been working with our Trustees (Leeds United Foundation, Barnardo's) as well as co-opted partners (Leeds Trinity University College) to make a difference and improve opportunities for our students. Our Trustees have supported us in, for example, developing literacy, motivating disengaged students and raising aspirations so that every student sees his / her potential. There will be another Trust Newsletter shortly. Clearly this is important work that will continue and we hope, in the future, to invite new partners onto the Trust board.

Since 2010 the Government's Academy programme has made it possible for any school to be considered for Academy status. There are many similarities between Trusts and Academies and these are identified in the information on our website (see details below.) As of 1st November 2011, 1419 schools have converted to Academies. This includes a number of schools in Leeds such as Abbey Grange, Leeds West, Garforth, Morley and Woodkirk. Many others are considering it and the Government has stated that it wants all schools to become Academies.

What does this mean for the school?

As a school judged to be good by Ofsted in November 2010, we believe we have the skills and the capacity to determine our own successful journey. We want to have the flexibility to do that without constraints and want to enjoy the benefits that Academies have. These include ensuring that our students are able to take advantage of a broad and balanced curriculum without having to cover every aspect with every student irrespective of ability or interest. We have a strong and effective Governing Body, described by Ofsted as close to outstanding and who understand the needs of our community. Academy status would give us the freedom to be funded directly by the Government and make decisions for our students. Taking responsibility for services that the LA currently delivers would involve additional costs but having taken those into account, the school would still benefit substantially. This would allow us to buy back the services that support our students & staff and explore alternatives where they are less effective.



Crawshaw Partnership Trust



Robin Lane, Pudsey, Leeds, LS28 9HU

Telephone: 0113 3368540 Fax: 0113 2564722 Email: admin@crawshawschool.org.uk

www.crawshawschool.org.uk



Crawshaw School

Live Local, Think Global

Headteacher Mrs Joanna Ruse B.A M.Ed

What does this mean for parents & carers?

I want to emphasise that the school would remain an inclusive one. The Local Authority maintains responsibility for Special Educational Needs and all schools, irrespective of status, have to abide by the Admissions Code. Whilst no longer funded by the Local Authority, our commitment to all Leeds schools would remain. The Governing Body would continue to support the school and to hold it to account. Ofsted still inspects all schools.

Your views on whether we should convert to Academy status are important to us and there is a great deal of information available and we have added a number of documents and links to our website, which we hope will support the consultation. Please visit the Info section at www.crawshawschool.org.uk. If you would like paper copies, please contact reception. This information will give you a greater understanding of the difference between Community, Trust and Academy Schools so that you can make up your own mind.

We would like to offer you the opportunity to ask questions and get more information at a Parents' & Carers' meeting on Wednesday 7th December (5:00pm.) There will be Governors present at this meeting, which will be held in the school theatre, so please use the theatre car park and entrance where possible. We plan to hold another meeting to ensure that all questions or concerns can be addressed.

Alternatively, please feel free to register questions or concerns in writing by post to the Headteacher at the school address or by email to jowled01@leedslearning.net We will do our best to answer all questions as quickly as possible. Unlike when the school became a Trust, there is no strict timeframe for consultation but the Governing Body will consider all comments / concerns before making a final decision.

We look forward to seeing or hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Ruse
Headteacher

Mrs D Horner
Chair of Governors



Crawshaw Partnership Trust



Robin Lane, Pudsey, Leeds, LS28 9HU

Telephone: 0113 3368540 Fax: 0113 2564722 Email: admin@crawshawschool.org.uk

www.crawshawschool.org.uk