

September 2014

Dear Parents and Carers

May I start by welcoming you all to a new school year at Wood Green, in particular to families joining us for the first time.

I hope you have already seen the excellent exam results achieved this summer, in particular the best GCSE results ever for Wood Green School. These results were a testament to our pupils, but also to the way that teachers, parents and students worked together last year. I would like to congratulate everyone involved and I am looking forward to more success this year.

We are delighted to be joined by new members of staff at Wood Green this term:

Mr Goddard	Deputy Headteacher (Teaching and Learning and Staff Development)
Miss Davidson	Head of Drama, year 7 tutor
Mr Gosnell	Maths Department, year 7 tutor
Mrs Franklin	Maths Department
Mr McCorquodale	Science Department, year 7 tutor
Mrs Withers	Admin (HR)
Miss Banegas Garcia	Science Technician

We also welcome David Bingham as our independent careers advisor, through the Adviza organisation. I know that they will all make a valuable contribution to Wood Green School and I am sure that you join me in offering them a warm welcome.

Across the country we are experiencing a time of rapid change in schools. Alongside focusing on teaching, learning and achievement, the Governors and Leadership Team have been considering the long-term future for Wood Green School to ensure that our improvement is sustained and we can provide the best all-round education for our students. Accompanying this newsletter is an important letter from the Governors and myself informing you about a proposal for academy status for Wood Green School. We will be carrying out a formal consultation on this proposal in the near future. I hope you will read this and the subsequent information which will be available later in September and contribute to this important decision.

Finally, I strongly encourage you to sign up to our WGS weekly briefing. This gives you a summary of weekly news, events and letters sent home. Over 500 parents have already subscribed by going to our website www.woodgreen.oxon.sch.uk and clicking in the link 'subscribe to WGS briefing'. I wish all parents and carers a very happy 2014-15 school year.

Yours faithfully



Headteacher



Dear Parents/Carers

Proposal for Wood Green School to become an Academy

As you may be aware, the Governing Body has been investigating becoming an Academy. There is an expectation within the Department for Education that any school in special measures will become an Academy. The Governors stated clearly that they would consider academisation only if it was in the best interest of the school and if the right partner could be found to support the future development of Wood Green. Following a significant amount of research and close cooperation with other schools in the Witney Partnership, the Governors have taken a decision to pursue academy status through an organisation called Challenge Partners, who the Governors feel will provide high quality support and challenge. We are working together to develop these proposals towards possible conversion in spring 2015.

As part of this process, the Governing Body of Wood Green School and Challenge Partners will be undertaking a six week period of consultation on these proposals. The consultation process will start officially on the 22nd September, when an information leaflet will be available, as well as a consultation website with FAQs. The leaflet and website will have a questionnaire for you to complete. We will also be holding evening consultation meetings for parents/carers and members of the community, as part of this process on Thursday 2nd October.

At the end of the consultation period, all of the responses will be collated into a report which the Governing Body will consider. This report will then be submitted to the Secretary of State who has the final say on whether schools can convert.

Challenge Partners is a highly effective school improvement network of over 230 schools and academies from across the country and includes schools from all phases, governance types, and stages in their school improvement journey.

The reasons we have chosen Challenge Partners as our preferred route for becoming an academy are:

- "Access to excellence": We would have access to research, emerging innovation and best practice from some of the best educational institutions and practitioners in the country.
- "Support" and "Challenge": Challenge Partners has a well-established and wide ranging track record of school improvement and will provide us with strong accountability whilst also giving us access to the best quality training and mentoring as standard.
- "Partnerships": As a part of the Challenge Partners network we would be part of national partnerships and have a vehicle to support our local partnership working.
- "Shaping our destiny" – Whilst Challenge Partners has a proven track record of school improvement, Wood Green would be the first school nationally to become an academy by joining Challenge Partners Academies. Being the first academy collaborating with Challenge Partners means that we can help to shape this close collaboration between Wood Green and a nationally recognised organisation.

You can find out more about Challenge Partners on their website: www.challengepartners.org

A letter and further information about the consultation will be sent out at the start of the consultation period.

Yours faithfully

R W Shadbolt
Headteacher

V. Stott
Chair of Governors

H. Pillin
Vice-Chair of Governors