



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