

“Encouraging Excellence, Nurturing Talent” **King Edward VI Grammar School**

“The school’s vision to nurture talent and encourage excellence has become a reality”

An Ofsted outstanding school

21st April 2015

Dear parent/s,

In 1991 King Edward’s converted from a local authority school to become a Grant Maintained [GM] School: the forerunner of the Academy programme. As part of this conversion King Edward’s became independent of the local authority with its own bank account and full responsibility for all aspects of the financial management of the school and its site as well as responsibility for its own curriculum and admissions policies. In 1998 the Labour Government ended the GM programme renaming the GM schools Foundation Schools. The new Foundation Schools [including King Edward’s] were allowed to retain their powers over the curriculum and admissions as well as maintaining their financial independence under the umbrella of the Local Authority. In short King Edward’s ceased to be a local authority school in 1991 and has enjoyed a semi-autonomous position ever since. By September King Edward’s will be one of only three non-academy secondary schools in Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire: the other 80 are all Academies or will have converted along with over 60% of secondary schools in England and Wales.

Now that the Academies programme has reached a critical mass it has become clear that the Labour, Liberal and Conservative parties are all committed to continuing the expansion of the Academies programme and the creation of local Education Trusts. With this in mind, and after much deliberation the Governors have decided to consult on whether or not to return to the full autonomy the school enjoyed in the 1990’s by converting to an Academy and creating a wider Educational Trust: The King Edward VI Education Trust. You can see details of the proposed Trust its goals and vision at www.keviet.org

As a Trust Academy King Edward’s would retain its local governance; control of its admissions policy; remain selective at age 11; continue to be a member of the Lincolnshire Consortium of Grammar Schools; administer the 11+; retain control of its curriculum and staffing, and I would remain as the Headmaster. In short very little would change, perhaps the biggest change would be the additional funding we would receive from the Department of Education and more importantly the freedom to form The King Edward VI Education Trust.

By creating a broader Trust our vision is to work at the heart of education in Louth at both a primary and secondary level building on the extensive collaborative work that we have engaged in over the past three years. This work has seen the school provide local primaries with a wealth of enrichment opportunities; we have provided specialist teaching support in Mathematics, English and Languages; primary school meals provision; Science clubs; we have also provided leadership and management

Headmaster James Lascelles
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support to help schools move themselves out of difficulty to be rated by OFSTED as Good schools with Outstanding features, and we currently provide financial advice and guidance as well.

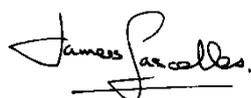
In addition to our work with primaries we continue to work closely with the other secondary schools in the town. As Headteachers our collective vision is to deepen the relationships between all of the Louth schools [*primary, secondary and special*] so that we can share best practice, ideas, facilities and resources to the benefit of all children and the wider Louth community: we have for example recently agreed to common term dates for 2015/16 and are identifying ways in which we can align some of our evening training sessions to focus on common areas of professional development. In short the Trust's primary goal will be to gradually fill the gap created by the demise of the Local Education authority and CfBT [*their School Improvement Team*] to support and facilitate collaboration by Headteachers across the education spectrum in Louth.

It is worth pointing out that during this three year period we have learnt as much, probably more from this collaborative process than we have taught. As a leadership team it has provided us with challenge and it has also provided us with the opportunity to see new ideas and inject or adapt some of these to help us continue on our quest to improve King Edward's. The evidence of this can be seen in our standards and results which have been unaffected by this work and have continued to rise. It is my firm conviction that by being outward looking, engaging with others and collaborating with them we have helped to drive our own standards ever higher.

The school is therefore seeking the views of parents about the formation of the Trust and of King Edward's converting to an Academy at the heart of this Trust. The Trust website www.keviet.org contains details about the Trust, the consultation process, various academic articles about Trusts and documents about school to school improvement in London "The London Challenge" plus a link to an exemplar Trust in Farringdon Oxfordshire, as well as a link to a parental questionnaire.

As ever I remain happy for parents to contact me directly as well via my PA Rhona Adam rmadam@kevigs.lincs.sch.uk or on 01507 600456.

With kindest regards



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