

Questions Raised during Parent/Community Meeting held on Wednesday 20th September 2017 at Thomas Bewick School as part of the consultation for the Academy Conversion

1. A parent raised concerns about schools choosing cheaper contracts in order to save money - schools are sourcing their own contracts whether or not they are academies due to the diminishing role and services that the LA can provide. Our school will continue to select services based on cost and service as part of value for money exercises.
2. A parent asked whether converting to an academy would affect school transport – academisation itself will not affect school transport, any future changes will be determined by the LA and will probably affect all school.
3. Would after school-clubs be affected because of more staff finishing at 3.30 pm – this is not due to or related to academisation. The school has changed its staffing structure and this has meant that less staff are staying until 3.30 pm. As this situation progresses this may have an impact on how the school provides after school clubs.
4. Will the school lose experienced staff if people leave due to being unhappy about the conversion – so far we have not heard any negative comments about the proposal. Only queries so far are looking for clarification about terms and conditions and the TUPE process. We are not anticipating losing staff due to academisation.
5. Will there be issues around budgets ring-fenced for particular purposes e.g. buildings/repairs & maintenance etc – no, schools determine how to spend their delegated budgets and how to apportion budgets. Any ring-fenced funds e.g. pupil premium, sports premium, Year 7 catch up, will be used appropriately and will not be affected by the conversion
6. Will holidays change – no changes are planned currently to term time dates, school times etc. Schools already have the ability to make these changes whether or not they are academies. Any change would only take place after consultation.
7. Will the conversion affect school meals e.g. free school meals – not in our school. Our facilities will continue to be provided by RFM and the Council’s cleaning and catering teams. Free School Meals and other meals will continue to be provided as currently.
8. Which school in the Trust has chosen not to apply to convert and join the Trust – Hadrian Update – also Sir Charles Parsons school