



THE LONDON NAUTICAL SCHOOL

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Thursday 25th January 2024

Re: Proposed Academy Conversion

Dear Families,

I am writing to inform you of some exciting news regarding the future direction of our wonderful school. As you will all be aware, the education landscape is one that is constantly changing with many schools within our locality that have either already converted to academy status or are currently considering making this adjustment. As we look to further enhance the education opportunities provided to our students by the school, we would like to share our intentions to proceed with the conversion to academy status of the London Nautical School. This letter will provide you with some initial information on the steps that the school will be taking over the coming months as we move to join a family of schools within an academy trust.

What is an academy?

For a number of years, education in England has been delivered through a new form of establishment which takes the best of an existing school and enables it to move forward with greater legal freedoms to create the best working environment for the needs of its students and staff. Academy schools are funded directly by the Department for Education (DFE), and independent of direct funding and control by the local authority. The conversion of all schools over time to become academies is also part of Government policy.

Why are we considering converting to an academy now?

The decision to consider academy conversion is one that has been ongoing for two years. During this time, the Governing Body and I have met with a range of Multi Academy Trusts (MAT's) available for us to join, looking carefully into the benefits and potential drawbacks. We have also closely monitored the national, regional, and local education position to ensure that we are able to make the correct decisions when setting the future direction of our school. Having carefully considered how any change in status will benefit our school we have identified one MAT, The City of London Academies Trust, that we feel will enhance the educational experience and opportunities provided to students, staff and the community that we serve. Throughout the decision-making process we have centred our approach on the guiding principles which are listed below:

- The school must maintain its unique ethos and heritage.
- The MAT must have strong evidence of high expectations and excellence that will enhance the school's improvement journey.

Over 100 years of Nautical Education

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- To work collaboratively with a family of schools where academic standards and outcomes are positive with the core belief that all students can succeed.
- The MAT must elevate the status of the school across London in its current location in the heart of the City.

The City of London Academies Trust

The City of London Academies Trust has an unrivalled reputation which draws upon the traditions, institutions, heritage and historical successes of the City Corporation and London. As a school, we feel there is great synergy in the strong values and mission of all their trust schools:

- High expectations, aspirations, excellence and a belief that all can succeed.
- Combining creativity, innovation and enterprise, alongside tradition and continuity.
- Developing people who are confident, resilient, compassionate and democratic.

The trust has a very strong focus on school improvement and an ethos based on outstanding educational standards, with the aim that all schools will be judged as 'outstanding' within three years of joining. This ethos is underpinned by the following principles:

- **High expectation leadership:** Dynamic and skilled leadership from school leaders and governors founded in the core belief that all children can succeed.
- **Exemplary behaviour:** Behaviour for learning based on a set of defined core values that promote engagement, respect, tolerance, probity, curiosity, resilience, creativity, and independence.
- **Outstanding creative teaching:** Highly skilled teaching that inspires, engages, supports, and challenges learners whatever their starting point.
- **Assessment that informs intervention:** Target-setting and assessment systems that set challenging targets, and provide data that supports intervention if that progress is not being made.
- **A challenging curriculum:** A formal curriculum that matches the high expectations of progress providing a range of high status qualifications for each learner. A rich informal curriculum that supports the wider development of each learner through personal, sporting, creative, and employer related experiences.

You can read more about the City of London Academies Trust [here](#).

How will conversion take place?

The DFE Advisory Board has approved our application for academy status subject to the statutory consultation required under the Academies Act 2010.

The process to convert will sit seamlessly alongside the normal day-to-day operation of the school. It will be a collective project between the school, academy trust and the DFE, ensuring the transition is as smooth as possible with students and staff remaining unaffected by the conversion across to the City of London

Academies Trust. The activities needed to affect the legal conversion will be completed in the background so that teachers can continue to focus on student learning and development through the range of educational experiences that we offer as a school.

When will conversion take place?

Myself, the Governing Board and representatives from The City of London Academies Trust will work alongside the DFE to achieve conversion ideally by the end of the summer term, but in any event by the 1st September 2024. There may be matters which arise that require this date to be revisited, however, we will continue to monitor the progress of conversion and communicate with all families and stakeholders as we approach the target date if we need to make any changes.

Next Steps – Initial engagement with the school community

Prior to undertaking the statutory formal consultation period, the school and The City of London Academies Trust would like to invite all families to attend a face-to-face meeting on **Wednesday 7th February at 4:00pm.** The meeting will be attended by representatives from trust including the Chief Executive Officer, Mark Emmerson, along with the Chair of the LNS Governing Board, Duncan Souster, and members of the senior leadership team. We hope this will provide you with an opportunity to share your views and will allow us to consider relevant matters that will help us to steer the formal consultation process once that commences. This meeting will take place at London Nautical School.

Further details regarding the formal consultation process, including the duration of the consultation period, will be shared with you immediately after the half term break.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support of LNS. We have a truly unique and wonderful school and remain committed to ensuring the very best for our students and families.

We all want the students at LNS to be placed in the strongest position for the future, and as such, our priority must be to enable LNS to continue to provide an excellent education, retaining our unique qualities and strengths whilst protecting the school's role at the heart of our community.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the meeting on **Wednesday 7th February 2024.** Please complete the form [here](#) if you intend to attend the meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Schofield
Headteacher



Duncan Souster
Chair of Governors