

# Budget wait on academy move

Fate of schools hinges on Chancellor's plans

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THE FATE of two south Lincolnshire schools could become clear next week with chancellor George Osborne's budget announcement.

Lincolnshire County Council had announced that the George Farmer Technology and Language College in Holbeach would be transformed into an academy in a move that would also see Crowland's St Guthlac School closing.

That was thrown into doubt, however, when the new coalition government announced it would review all of Labour's spending promises in a bid to make savings.

A county spokesman said that

he expected to have a clearer idea of the future of Lincolnshire's academy projects after George Osborne's Budget on Tuesday.

Campaigners will be eagerly awaiting the result of the announcement as they continue to fight to save the St Guthlac from the axe.

The opposition has been co-ordinated through a group on social networking website Facebook, which first sparked a petition in Crowland and now a website [www.save-stguthlacs.co.uk](http://www.save-stguthlacs.co.uk) to boost the campaign.

Jim Astill, who set up the group, said: "We've now collected 1,022 signatures of people who are against the proposals to close the school.

"That number of signatures in just fewer than four weeks clearly demonstrates how people feel

about this issue. We will leave the petitions out until the end of June, following this we will present to the next full council meeting and also to the governing body of the school.

"I do know that a decision on the required funding is expected soon, and this is really important for everyone either in favour or against the proposals."

Campaigners have met with MP John Hayes and will try to secure a meeting with executive county councillor Patricia Bradwell and chair of governors Chris Penney to discuss the possible closure.

If the academy gets the go-ahead the George Farmer will receive about £18 million to build state-of-the-art facilities for pupils, with the Crowland school eventually set to close in 2014.

Save St Guthlac's School  
<http://www.save-stguthlacs.co.uk/>

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