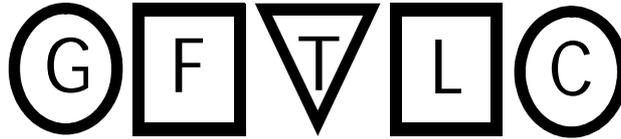




the
Saint Guthlac
school



George Farmer Technology & Language
College



The Governors the Holbeach and Crowland Secondary Federation

Federation Executive Headteacher: Steve Baragwanath B.Sc. (Hons.)

12th May 2010

Dear Parents

Re: Academy Status

Over the last few months the governors and the local authority have been working together to try and secure Academy status for the schools within the federation and I am now able to inform you that the Department for Children, Schools and Families have approved this proposal in principle.

This means that we can now move forward with the process that will ultimately see sometime in 2011 both the current schools close and immediately re-open as an academy operating in the first instance from the two existing sites. As part of this process the site at Holbeach will be significantly redeveloped to provide world class teaching and learning facilities, which when completed in hopefully 2014, will provide sufficient additional capacity for the students at the Crowland site to relocate to Holbeach. When this happens the County Council have decided that they will utilise the existing St Guthlac's site to provide a new primary school and enhanced community facilities for the community of Crowland.

Academies are schools outside the control of the local authority that operate in conjunction with an academic sponsor. An essential requirement of the governors for the sponsor of the academy was a commitment that the current very successful management and ethos of the federation be maintained and the governors are delighted that on that basis the University of Lincoln have joined us as the main sponsor. The University already operate a significant campus adjacent to the Holbeach site and the beneficial links between them and the federation which are already strong which will be enhanced with their involvement as sponsors.

The Governors are aware that major changes such as this are worrying for parents and the wider community. In order to allow all those affected by the changes to have the ability to better understand the process, we will in the near future, be organising a consultation process which will include public meetings.

As a governing body we are fully supportive of these exciting proposals which we see as a once in a lifetime opportunity to acquire the first class facilities and enhanced educational opportunities that the young people in the area the federation serves deserve.

I look forward to meeting with you during the next few weeks to discuss these proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Penney
Chairman of Governors.