

June 3rd 2013

Frequently asked questions –Academy Status

Following the parent consultation meetings that I held, here are some of the most commonly asked questions and answers.

- **What type of academy will we be?**

We are becoming a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) . We are being sponsored by Powers Hall Junior School in Witham. This school is an Outstanding school, under the Ofsted framework, so is able to sponsor another school.

The two schools will be a tremendous support for each other and I am pleased that we are not becoming part of a large business model.

- **Why are we becoming an academy?**

I have been suitably informed, by unions, county advisors and other headteachers, that within 2-5 years all primary schools will have converted to become academies. We have been working with Powers Hall over the year to help improve standards and help us get to 'good' as quickly as possible.

When the possibility arose to make the partnership a firmer one, it was too good an opportunity to turn down. Powers Hall work with many schools, but only offered us the chance of academy status with them. As well as achieving very good Sats results for their children, their ethos is also the same as Engaines: that is that all children should achieve their full potential. I am also very interested in their curriculum, which is very much driven by the children- I believe our children would really love this opportunity and we will use their model and adapt it to suit our children.

- **How does the academy status affect our finances?**

We will not be any worse off or particularly better off. Powers Hall will not be top-slicing any of our budget, unlike the business model of academies. We will have better buying power as two schools and will hopefully be able to negotiate better deals for resources.

- **What happens to our Governing Body?**

Both schools will retain their Governing Bodies. These will be responsible for the day to day running of their schools. I will still be responsible for leading the school. Powers Hall will be there for helping to improve teaching and learning and helping us to gain above national results for our children as soon as possible.

- **What will our name and uniform be?**

Our name will be Engaines Academy and our logo of the tractor will remain. The uniform will still be blue. For our new children starting in September, the wording will be Engaines Academy. For the rest of the children, uniform can be changed as they grow out it. Please do not feel the need to buy new.

- **Is the admissions criteria going to change?**

No-the criteria will still be in this order: children that are looked after; children living in the village of Little Clacton; children with siblings at Engaines; remaining places will be given on a distance from school basis. Full details are available on our web-site.

I hope this has answered any questions you may have. If any remain then I am more than happy to discuss them with you, via phone-tone, e-mail or face-to-face.

Ms.J.Irwin
Headteacher

