

Ravenscroft Primary School

Proposal to convert to Academy and join the Boleyn (Multi-Academy) Trust

Consultation Report

6 March 2017

Introduction

This report provides full details of the stakeholder consultation carried out by Ravenscroft Primary School from 24 January to 3 March 2017, with regard to proposals to convert to academy status and to join the Boleyn (Multi-Academy) Trust

The governing body of Ravenscroft Primary School sought to provide those affected by the proposal with an opportunity to:

- Become informed about the proposed changes to the schools.
- Discuss their concerns and ask any questions they might have.
- Express their views on the proposed academy and joining the Boleyn (Multi-Academy) Trust.

The governing body wanted to ensure that it had involved and listened to the various stakeholders to enable them to reach an informed view on converting to academy and joining the Boleyn (Multi-Academy) Trust.

Executive Summary

This is a proposal for Ravenscroft Primary School in Newham to convert to academy and join the Boleyn (Multi-Academy) Trust.

The meeting held with parents was supportive of the proposal and no concerns were raised. Parents were reassured that the school would retain its own identity and have the advantage of working as part of a group of high performing schools to maintain standards. Parents were also advised that the Local Authority supported the proposal.

Background

Ravenscroft Primary School is currently a maintained school in the London Borough of Newham.

The Boleyn (Multi-Academy) Trust is a group of schools working together to share best practice in providing an outstanding education for all children. The Trust is led by Tom Canning, a National Leader of Education. On the 6th July 2016 the government approved the Boleyn Trust as an Academy Sponsor.

The Trust is chaired by Clive-Anthony Douglas.

There are currently there are two schools in the Trust, viz: Tollgate Primary and Cleves Primary. Both schools are 2 Form entry, co-educational Community Primary Schools with nursery provision. Both Schools are judged as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

The schools retain their individual character, serving their local community and are led by their own Head Teachers. Tollgate and Cleves have a joint local governing body.

The proposal is for Ravenscroft Primary School to convert to academy and join the Boleyn Trust. Ravenscroft Primary School with have a local governing body.

The Boleyn Federation Consultative methods employed.

- Fact Sheet (appendix)- distributed by sending them home with the pupils. Fact sheets were also available at main school reception and copies were sent to all local schools
- A powerpoint presentation (appendix) at the public meeting
- Informal discussions and conversations with parents and members of the local community at the Dads' Coffee morning and with governors in the playground
- Text updates sent to parents regarding the public meeting and consultation arrangements

Meeting with Parents/Carers Ravenscroft Primary School

Venue	Ravenscroft Primary School
Date & Time	Monday 6 February 2017 at 5.30pm
Audience	Parents and Carers of Ravenscroft Primary School
School personnel	Alison Sharp (Headteacher), Simon Bond (Deputy Headteacher)
Governing Body	Louise Baker
Boleyn Trust	Tom Canning (Chief Executive Officer)
Local Authority	Jane Moon (Deputy Director)
Attendees	7 parents (minutes appended)

Other responses

No other consultation responses have been received.



Parents and Carers are invited to an

Academy Consultation

In respect of Ravenscroft Primary School joining the *Boleyn Multi Academy Trust* (MAT)



Date
Monday 6th February 2017

Time
5.30pm – 6.30pm

Venue
Ravenscroft Primary School
Carson Road
E16 4BD

If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact:

Alison Sharp, Head Teacher
info@ravenscroft.newham.sch.uk
020 7476 2454

What is an Academy?

- Academies are independent of the Local Authority (LA), which means they have autonomy over the decisions they make and the education they deliver
- They are financed on the same basis as other state-funded schools (publicly funded by the DfE)
- They are inspected in the same way as state-funded schools by the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED)
- They are a major part of the Government's plans for improving education
- They follow the same regulations as other state-funded schools
- They serve their communities in the same way as other state-funded schools

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What is an Academy Trust?

An Academy Trust is a charitable company responsible for the running of an academy.

The *Boleyn Trust* is the overarching body that is responsible for the management of the academies within the Trust including the land and other assets. So far the *Boleyn Trust* includes Tollgate Primary School and Cleves Primary School.

It is responsible for ensuring that the curriculum, teaching and the care of pupils is of a high standard.

The *Boleyn Trust* will ensure that the schools within it work together to secure and maintain the highest outcomes for all of the pupils.

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What are the aims of the Trust and the Schools?

- To enable the acquisition of skills, knowledge and understanding which will be of use to all future learning
- To promote, facilitate and enable the inclusion of children with disabilities and special educational needs
- To provide a safe, supportive and caring environment
- To provide a broad and balanced curriculum which is differentiated to match teaching to pupils' needs
- To reflect the diversity of the community we serve through strong and powerful community cohesion and with high parental involvement
- To develop lively and enquiring minds through encouraging children to question and discuss issues, in order to make informed decisions
- To create opportunities where children can develop a sense of awe and wonder#



Why make these changes?

Opportunities to:

- Enable a strong provision to deliver excellent education
- Develop stronger partnerships
- Work with others
- Expand leadership experience for staff
- Extend provision for pupils and staff

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What will these changes mean?

Greater control:

- How the School is run
- How the School spends the monies allocated
- Freedom to evaluate curriculum content and how it is delivered to ensure pupils are fully prepared for national exams and future education
- Governance arrangements to best suit the academies and the Trust

Part of a Multi-Academy Trust:

- Develop existing partnerships
- Develop new partnerships
- Develop relationship with community
- Sharing of expertise

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How will this affect the children's education?

- Wider Trust education expertise to support children across the Trust and the schools
- Create a living network of educational excellence
- Provide wider opportunities for leadership, staff and pupils education

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What will remain the same?

- Continue the highest standards in teaching
- Outstanding qualities of leadership throughout the school and the Trust
- Appointment of excellent people to the staff
- Clear ethos of high expectations and excellent behaviour, promoting positive attitudes and moral understanding
- Total commitment to the emotional, social and intellectual well-being of children

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What will remain the same?

Admissions and inclusions:

- No changes to admissions criteria
- Commitment to all children including those with special education needs and those with autistic spectrum disorders

School day and year

School start and finish times and term dates will remain the same

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What are the next steps?

The Governing Body will look at the opinions of the staff and parents and make a final decision on conversion.

If conversion is agreed funding arrangements with the DfE will be finalised.

We will seek to maximise all opportunities that the proposed changes may present.

Regardless of the final decision educational progress remains at the forefront of the school's plans.





Academy Consultation

In respect of Ravenscroft Primary School joining the *Boleyn Multi Academy Trust* (MAT)

Monday 6th February 2017 5.30pm – 6.30pm

The Boleyn Trust



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The Boleyn Trust



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The Boleyn Trust

RAVENS CROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Public & Parent Academy Consultation meeting

Monday 6th February 2017 at 5.30pm

Present:

Parents – 7

Alison Sharp (AS) - Head teacher

Simon Bond – Deputy Head teacher

Tom Canning (TC) – CEO Boleyn Trust

Jane Moon – LA representative

Louise Baker – Governor

Margaret Patient – Clerk

Alison Sharp welcomed all present and explained that the formal public consultation meeting forms part of the process that consults with staff and parents about the proposal for academy status. The consultation period continues until 3rd March 2017 and the public and parents can forward their questions until that date.

Tom Canning, the Chief Executive Officer of the Boleyn Trust, was introduced and informed all present that joining a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) is about a group of schools coming together to grow, succeed and support each other. Previously the LA would provide support through a range of advisors and by providing a central teaching centre that was accessed by schools to meet their different needs. This type of support is no longer available as the national government message is one that promotes the academy agenda of schools working together. Now that schools are on their own, in terms of less LA support, it is very important to choose the right time to join an MAT. The benefits of joining a MAT bring schools closer together by sharing good practice, monitoring outcomes along with educational standards and financial support.

Ravenscroft is a high achieving school and it will retain its own identity with its own community providing education for its local children. No-one will be taking over the school, the Head Teacher remains the Head Teacher of Ravenscroft and acts in the best interest of the children.

Jane Moon, the LA representative, supported the Academy proposal based on schools strengthening their position with strategic planning. Over the last ten years the LA has supported schools less and by joining a developing academy trust the

school is ensuring it works within a body of schools that support one another. Every school can have good, static or even have blip years and a MAT, by working together to provide the support required, strengthens its MAT status. The LA role is now to work with MAT's and provide a service that reflects the changing landscape within Newham.

Ravenscroft will remain a school that is well led with Alison and Simon. All staff will remain on the same terms of employment, pay and conditions including pension.

Any staff wanting to discuss further concerns or queries with a union representative will be able to organise this within the school. The Head teacher will also be available to answer questions or to provide further information about the process. The consultation period will closed on the 3rd March 2017.

The meeting closed at 5.55pm.