

# Haydon School

A High Performing Specialist School  
and designated DCSF Language  
College and Applied Learning Centre



SRR/jmp/Academy Status  
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Headteacher:  
Mr S Robson MA NPQH

Dear Parents

I am writing to update you on the situation regarding Haydon's progress towards Academy Status and also the possible implications for Haydon School of the Government White Paper on Education announced this week.

As you will know, we have for some time been considering the advantages and disadvantages of applying to change the status of Haydon School from a Foundation School to an Academy. One of the first things that the new Government did was to invite all Outstanding Schools to apply to become an Academy. Since that date we have been finding out more information and have visited Watford Boys Grammar School which became an Academy on 1 September and they have been very helpful to us.

It is the view of myself, my Senior Leadership Team and the Governors of Haydon School that Academy status will bring us many of the advantages and freedoms that we enjoyed as a Grant Maintained School many years ago.

The advantages are:

1. Curriculum freedom: we will retain a broad and balanced curriculum but we will not be as restricted as we are now in delivering the current National Curriculum.
2. Admissions: we will still be subject to the National Admissions Code but we will be able to carry out more of the admissions work within the school rather than be directed by the Local Authority who tend to slow up the process of admissions work for new students.
3. Budget: The school will receive directly from the Department for Education the money to which we are entitled and this will then allow us to buy back the services we need either from Hillingdon or from whoever we feel offers the best service. Currently the Local Authority retains money to pay for central services that Haydon does not necessarily use.

The indicative sum we have been given is an extra £1.2 million for the school to choose how to spend. It is important to note that this figure may change but the education organisation that is supporting us (Strictly Education in conjunction with Winkworth Solicitors) have made it clear that the schools that they have taken through, received within 1% or 2% of the total indicated. This has also been confirmed by Watford Grammar. Quite obviously, some of this extra money will be used to buy back essential services such as the Local Authority Behaviour Support Team however, it will undoubtedly allow us to be more flexible in responding to the inevitable budget cuts that are coming (see attachment on white Paper).

## Mission Statement

*Haydon School is committed to the achievement of individual excellence  
Encouraging students to be creative and considerate, confident of their role in society  
and capable of rising to the challenges of a diverse and rapidly developing global economy*



The disadvantages are:

1. There is a lot of short term work involved in transferring to become an Academy.
2. There is greater responsibility on myself and the Governors in running and governing an Academy.
3. We lose the support of the Local Authority. However, as a Foundation School we do not receive much direct benefit from them. The services we use we buy in from the Local Authority and would probably continue to do so. It is possible that the services would become more expensive although we would be able to shop around for best value high quality provision.

These are the principal advantages and disadvantages of moving to Academy Status. I see it as helping Haydon to keep its ethos and ensure that every student has every opportunity to succeed.

If you have any concerns or questions relating to this move, you can check the website where there is a 'frequently asked questions' page for you to consult. If this does not answer your query, then please feel free to email [srobson@hillingdongrid.org](mailto:srobson@hillingdongrid.org), [rjones@hillingdongrid.org](mailto:rjones@hillingdongrid.org) or [bbloss@hillingdongrid.org](mailto:bbloss@hillingdongrid.org).

I will regularly update the information on the website so you can check our progress.

Our last Ofsted said '*Students leave the school as mature and confident young people, who are exceptionally well prepared for their future lives in education and the world of work*'.

I am very proud of what we achieve for our students and feel that Academy Status offers us the best chance to not only preserve our strengths, but also to build to even better outcomes.

Yours sincerely



**S R Robson**  
Headteacher