



Federation of Hob Moor Oaks and Hob Moor Community Primary Schools,  
Green Lane, Acomb, York, YO24 4PS

Telephone: 01904 555000

[hobmooroaks@hmcc.york.sch.uk](mailto:hobmooroaks@hmcc.york.sch.uk)

[hobmoorprimary@hmcc.york.sch.uk](mailto:hobmoorprimary@hmcc.york.sch.uk)

[www.hobmoorschools.co.uk](http://www.hobmoorschools.co.uk)

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

## Federation news to share

I have a lot of information that I want to share with you, so please accept my apologies in advance for the length of this letter.

### 1. Gate safety

Many of you share my concerns about site safety around the school gates. I have been working with the Governors and CYC to try and resolve this as it presents a risk to children and to adults. I have just been advised that measures to improve the safety will be in place by the end of March 2016. This does sound a long way off, doesn't it? However, it is important for us to understand that the council has to consult with various people and undertake a speed survey so that they make the right decisions. I'll keep you posted on this one and also, wanted to thank you once again for sharing your concerns. We simply have to be a safe place for children don't we?

### 2. Exploring academisation.

Education in this country is changing. The government is committed to an academisation agenda that allows greater freedoms for schools in a position to accept them, which they believe gives governors and headteachers more of an incentive to provide excellent education opportunities for children.

Over half of all secondary schools in England are now academies and more than ten per cent of primary schools have also converted to academy status. The take-up among primaries is lower, because traditionally primaries have fewer staff and are less likely to have the capacity to handle the complex business affairs of running a school on their own.

Some schools are converting to academy status and then joining forces with like-minded schools so as to offer economies of scale, peer support and staff development opportunities, all ultimately for the benefit of the children and young people in their organisations.

You will be aware that in York, a number of schools have already become academies, some have already formed multi-academy trusts with other schools and there are many more – such as our schools in the Federation – observing what is happening and trying to work out what is the best way forward.

---

**Mrs Cath Hindmarch, Federation Principal**

**Mrs Vicki Ward, Head of School, Hob Moor Oaks**

**Miss Samantha Dunderdale, Head of School, Hob Moor Community Primary School**

'Life Changing Learning for Every Child'



To do nothing is an option, but in these changing times, with less support from the local authority because of cost savings imposed from central government, it is not perhaps a realistic option if we want to continue to look at ways to improve our schools. It is, or should be, the ambition of every headteacher and governor to always want to do things better: there are always areas for improvement.

And so, following a governors' meeting yesterday, we are today launching a consultation period of a few weeks to explore the possibility of converting to academy status. This does not mean to say we will become an academy- it is to commit to exploring the options and seeing if this move is right for us – our children, our staff, and our community.

During this consultation period, senior staff and governors will arrange formal meetings and drop-in events and discuss the principle with parents, carers and staff. There will be every opportunity for everyone's views to be heard and questions answered before governors – who run the school – take the final decision. There is a lot of work to do and we will keep you informed at every stage.

Should we decide to academise, we are looking at joining forces with Ebor Academy Trust, a York-based multi-academy trust currently running four schools, including Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy in Strensall and Haxby Road Primary Academy. In early, informal talks with Ebor we have discovered they share our values and ethos and we believe they may be a good 'fit'. Should we decide to academise and join them, they would handle core business activities such as payroll and HR, leaving teaching and learning – our real passions – to us, with support as appropriate.

Importantly, our plans will not mean that funding or places will be taken from Hob Moor Oaks. It will be very much business as usual - providing the very best for each child.

A magazine from Ebor that will help you understand more about the organisation that we may eventually join is available in school. Further information is available on the website <http://www.eboracademytrust.co.uk/>

I know that the prospect of change can be worrying for many people but I want to reassure you that no decision will be taken before governors are satisfied they are in possession of all the information they need, including considering feedback from a comprehensive consultation.

The next steps will be communicated to you very soon, but I wanted to share this first thinking with you as soon as practicable following yesterday's governors' meeting.

Yours sincerely



Cath Hindmarch  
Federation Principal