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Founded 1708

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THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

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A Specialist School in Science and Mathematics

7th February 2012

Dear Parent/Carer,

Decision of the Governing Body : Conversion To Academy Status

On **Monday, 6th** February, 2012, the Governing Body of The Blue Coat School met at an Extraordinary General Meeting to make its decision as to whether to support the conversion of the School into an Academy on 1st March 2012 or as soon as possible thereafter.

I can now advise you that the Governing Body has agreed to the conversion of The Blue Coat School into an Academy and to do so with effect from 1st March, 2012.

At the end of September, 2011, the Governing Body commenced an intensive period of detailed research and broad based consultation with all parts of the Blue Coat School community including you, as parents of our current students.

In October 2011, we held an open meeting for our parents at which over thirty questions from you were comprehensively answered. We also created a section on the school website '*Possible Conversion to Academy Status*' on which we placed the detailed presentation given by our Headteacher for those of you unable to attend the open meeting; all the questions asked at that meeting along with the answers given; a facility for further questions to be asked via the website; letter or telephone.

We were very reassured to note that only a further two questions were posed by parents subsequent to the open meeting and the availability of a dedicated section on the website. We have concluded therefore that any issues or concerns raised by our parents have been addressed to your satisfaction. We were pleased to note the enthusiastic and challenging questions raised by our students at a series of meetings held with them and at which they clearly demonstrated their desire for the retention of the character and traditions which have evolved over three hundred years.



All the deliberations of the Governing Body have been underpinned by its determination to ensure that no part of the school's present arrangements would be compromised through converting to academy status. Not the least of our concerns has been the protection of the high quality education our teaching staff deliver to your children. We know that the retention of our high quality teachers and attracting and adding to their quality in the future can only be achieved through the provision of the best possible competitive terms and conditions. The Governing Body, therefore, is fully committed to their existing negotiating framework.

The Governing Body can further assure you that conversion to academy status **does not alter** our existing name, our academically selective admissions' criteria and associated procedure nor our commitment to being part of the Liverpool family of schools.

So, for our students and staff – **it is business as usual.**

Our decision to become an academy reflects our belief that we will be better able to meet the increasingly challenging financial environment by having greater control over the whole of our financial resources. Direct control of these funds, which are currently delegated to the local authority, will strengthen our budget position, protecting and advancing our ability to focus those resources on the specific educational needs of our students.

The governing body recognises its obligation to continuously monitor and assess the changing national and local landscapes on educational provision. A key part of our work is to maintain the School's capacity to respond effectively to financial and educational challenges yet to come.

We have been generously supported and encouraged during our research and widespread consultations by our Foundation trustees who have also secured the availability of their land upon which our school buildings are sited. We are grateful to them.

We know that the present economic environment presents us with enormous challenges for the preservation of the quality of education we currently deliver to your children and the developments we seek for the future.

At this time of change, the Governing Body assures you of its continued focus on the education and pastoral care of your children which you place in our hands and which will always remain foremost in our deliberations and decisions.

Yours Sincerely,

J.M. Shaw

Julia M. Shaw
Chair of Governors

D A Silcock

Mrs. D. Silcock
Headteacher

