



**The Isaac Newton
Primary School**

Dysart Road
Grantham
Lincs. NG31 7DG

Telephone: 01476 568616
Fax: 01476 568618
E-Mail: enquiries@isaacnewton.lincs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr P. Hill

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to thank those parents/carers who attended the meeting yesterday evening. A number of questions were raised and, as with the previous meeting, are listed below.

At the beginning of the meeting I shared the way in which the HMI visit had been conducted. I then explained that the inspector would return in the Summer Term to carry out lesson observations and look at our progress in greater depth. Parents/carers were then invited to ask questions about the HMI visit and the school becoming an academy. The questions were as follows:

What is the difference between an academy and Isaac Newton as it is now?

The main difference is that the Local Authority is no longer responsible for the school and does not provide the budget. This gives us more control over the way in which we spend money. It also gives us extra freedoms – we will be able to decide upon our own curriculum and purchase advisors who we feel will help to accelerate our progression.

Who will we acadamise with?

We will become part of the Community Inclusive Trust. Ambergate and Sandon Schools will also be in the trust and will act as our sponsor. They will be responsible for finding the correct support, allowing us to focus on Isaac Newton Pupils.

Were there offers from other trusts?

Yes – there were 3 offers. A representative from the Department for Education consulted with each and decided that the Community Inclusive Trust was the strongest route for us.

Will more schools be added later?

It is likely that other schools will be added. However, ensuring that we have progressed and are in a secure position is the primary focus.

Will we still be called Isaac Newton?

Yes we will. I explained that there may be a slight change – we will not be a school but an academy, however we will keep the Isaac Newton part of the name.

How will all of the changes affect parent volunteers?

There should be no change to our intentions for volunteers. We will write to those people who have shown an interest in order that inductions can take place.

When will the school become an academy?

It could be as early as June if all of the deadlines are met by the Department for Education.

Will Ambergate and Sandon support pupils at Isaac Newton who have Special Educational Needs?

This will work both ways. Ambergate and Sandon will be able to help pupils who have specific needs in which they have expertise. We will be able to help pupils from Ambergate and Sandon who may benefit from our expertise.

What is the OfSTED grading for Ambergate and Sandon?

Both schools are graded as outstanding. This is why they are well positioned to support us.

Have you reassessed the children for Reading, Writing and Maths – what did this show?

Yes we have. We have also had moderators in school to check that we are accurate in our assessments. The results show that there is work to do but we have initial indications that progress is accelerating.

What about children who are achieving well – are you overly focused on those who are struggling?

We are focused on progress rather than the final result that pupils gain. This means that we can identify pupils who are not progressing quickly enough - irrespective of the level they began at.

Are we still using Phonics Bug?

Phonics Bug will be back in use in all classes ASAP.

Will we have different lunch providers?

Yes we will but this is because the current provider is unable to meet the demand for next year. (FS, Year 1 and Year 2 children will all receive a free meal from September).

There were some other questions about phonics and reading which will be discussed at staff meeting next week. We will continue to hold a parents meeting following each visit from Her Majesty's Inspectorate and will keep you informed of Academy updates via the school newsletter.

Paul Hill

Headteacher