

# St. Luke's Science and Sports College

## 'Should St. Luke's convert to an Academy?'



The Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team at St. Luke's Science and Sports College are considering whether the College would benefit from conversion to Academy status under the provisions of Education Act 2010. This consultation seeks your views about whether St. Luke's Science and Sports College should or should not convert and is a hugely important exercise that will inform any future decisions.

### A message from the Governors

As a Governing Body we began exploring the possibility of the College becoming an Academy early in September 12 because we recognised the potential benefits that it could bring for our students. As a Governing Body, before we make any formal decisions, we would very much like to hear the views of all people who may be affected if the college were to convert.

Please rest assured that at this stage in our deliberations; no decision has been taken about Academy conversion and indeed will not be until the consultation period is over. It is also worth confirming at this point that the College would not be looking for any form of Sponsor but instead would convert independently.

# What is an Academy?

An Academy is a publicly funded state school, with an independent governing body, and is directly accountable to the Department for education (DfE) as opposed to the local authority. An Academy provides free education to students of all abilities from within its local community.

The DfE will fund the running costs of an Academy at a level comparable to that of other secondary schools in Devon. An Academy manages its own budget and is free to use this creatively to provide the highest quality of education for its students.

Further information about Academies and a detailed consultation document can be found at [www.st-lukes.devon.sch.uk](http://www.st-lukes.devon.sch.uk) or at <https://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies>

## What are the benefits of becoming an Academy?

- Greater financial freedoms and better control over our own budget.
- Greater ability to innovate with increased curriculum freedoms.
- Ability to foster new and different relationships with partner organisations and schools including the Local Authority.
- Freedom from Local Authority control creating the ability for increased strategic innovation.

## What will not change if the College becomes an Academy?

- The College name, identity and specialist subjects.
- The current College uniform.
- External scrutiny and quality assurance from OFSTED.
- College admissions policy\*.
- Provision for students with SEN.
- Staff terms and conditions of employment and pension arrangements.

### \*Admissions Policy

If the College was to convert, all students currently enrolled at St. Luke's Science and Sports College would be guaranteed a place at the Academy. Our intention would also to remain very-much a 'community' school and as such no changes to our current admissions policy would be implemented.

## What would students in the potential Academy learn?

St. Luke's firmly believe that the school curriculum should meet the needs of every single student; this would not change following any Academy conversion. St. Luke's would continue to place a very high importance on the essential skills that students need to be successful in the future.

The curriculum and extra-curricular programme would continue to:

- Enable students to follow GCSE and vocational pathways.
- Develop citizenship and leadership skills, for example through outdoor education, volunteering and work-based learning.
- Provide personalised curriculums where applicable to give students the very best chance of success.
- Provide extension and challenge for those students who are deemed gifted and talented.
- Ensure students have the opportunity to drive and influence change in the College through student voice.

## How you can contribute your views

The consultation period will last for 5 weeks from 16th September to 18th October 2013. We invite people to express their views via any of the following methods:

- **Email** – [academyconsultation@st-lukes.devon.sch.uk](mailto:academyconsultation@st-lukes.devon.sch.uk)
- **Questionnaire** – return the questionnaire overleaf to the College reception in a sealed envelope marked 'Academy Consultation Questionnaire'.
- **Letters** – marked 'Private and Confidential – Academy Consultation' and addressed to the Chair of Governors.
- **Staff Consultation Meeting** – to be held in the Main Hall on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October September 2013 from 4.00pm – 5.00pm.
- **Parent/Carer Consultation Evening** – to be held in the Main Hall on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October from 7.00 – 8.00pm.

In addition to the above, students will be consulted via a number of methods throughout the consultation period.

Only once all stakeholder comments and representations have been collated and considered will the Governors decide whether or not to apply to convert to Academy status.

Once again, we ask that all responses are sent by **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2013**.

# Consultation Questionnaire

Please complete the questions below and return in a sealed envelope marked 'Academy Consultation Questionnaire' to the College reception by **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October.**

## 1. Who are you?

- Parent/carer of a student at St. Luke's Science and Sports College
- Student at St. Luke's Science and Sports College
- Member of staff at St. Luke's Science and Sports College
- Governor at St. Luke's Science and Sports College
- Parent/Carer of a student at another Exeter School
- Member of staff at another Exeter School
- Member of the local community
- Other, please specify

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## 2. Do you feel that St. Luke's Science and Sports College should convert to an Academy school?

Yes

No

Don't Know

## 3. Do you feel that conversion to Academy status will benefit the students of St. Luke's?

Yes

No

Don't Know

## 4. Please feel free to offer any additional comments in the space provided below.

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