



## Governing Body Newsletter – November 2016

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you with some exciting news about the future of Roebuck Primary School and Nursery. At a meeting in October, the Governing Body voted unanimously to start the process to **convert the school to an Academy**.

Specifically we plan to partner up with the Hart Schools Trust, a local multi-academy trust which includes the Thomas Alleyne Academy in the Old Town.

In terms of the process, we are about to submit our application – from then a decision could take up to six weeks. There is a chance that we won't be allowed to convert, but we do not believe this will happen. There will then be a period of consultation to make sure everyone's views are listened to and considered before we make a formal decision to convert.

### What will it mean for my children?

Basically, there will be no noticeable changes to your children's experience of Roebuck. Your child will still have the same teacher and the curriculum will not change. The school and the Governing Body will continue to have high expectations of children and staff, and there will be the same strong focus on teaching and learning.

However, we expect the developing links with the Thomas Alleyne Academy to provide great opportunities for enhancing the learning and development opportunities for the children and staff in both Roebuck and Thomas Alleyne.

### What does being an Academy mean?

This change is mostly around who is responsible for the school, so it is very much a background change – currently, Hertfordshire County Council is responsible, but this will move to the Hart Schools Trust. The land will remain owned by Hertfordshire County Council, but will be leased to Hart Schools Trust. There will be an overarching Board monitoring all of the schools in the Trust, including Roebuck and our Chair of Governors will sit on this Board. Initially, Roebuck will be the only primary school in the Trust, but we expect this to change in due course.

The Headteacher will remain responsible for running the school and making all related decisions, and our Governing Body will remain. A big change is that the Hart Schools Trust will provide support around things like human resources, administration, marketing and other areas, which will free up the Headteacher's time so that he can spend more time concentrating on teaching and learning across the school.

### Why are we proposing this change?

This has not been a decision we have taken lightly – the Governing Body has spent the last year researching, scrutinising and negotiating the best step for the school to take in order to support the on-going journey of improvement. It was, at times, an agonising decision to make, although in the end the Governing Body strongly feels this is the best decision for the school.

We are aware that several other schools in the area have become academies, but we wanted to be satisfied that whatever step we take, it has a positive impact on our pupils rather than being a change for the sake of it. This is one of the reasons we chose to work with the Hart Schools Trust.



I will write to you again when I have more details. We are keen to hear your thoughts and answer any questions you may have and so we are holding an informal drop-in for parents/carers. This will take place on **24<sup>th</sup> November at 9am and 4.30pm**. Mark Lewis, the headteacher of Thomas Alleyne and Managing Director of the Hart Schools Trust will also be coming along to answer any questions. Everyone is welcome to attend and there is no need to book a place, just turn up!

I would also like to update you on the following changes to the Governing body.

### **Parent Governor Election**

Thank you to all parents who took the time to vote in the recent parent governor election. The results were as follows:

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Linsey Brewis	65
Heather Heritage	22
Kate Sayer	35
TOTAL	122

Linsey Brewis is therefore elected to the Governing Body.

### **Thank You**

Mohammed Ashraf, a parent governor, recently stepped down after serving a full term on the Governing Body. Mohammed was chair of the Resources Committee and was a great asset to the Governing Body. We would like to thank him for his time and commitment and wish him well in the future.

Regards,

Steve Marshman  
*Chair of Governors*