

Name:

Form:

21 April 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Academy Conversion

I am delighted to announce that an Academy Order was granted yesterday by the Secretary of State for Education. This order confirms that Kingsbury School and Sports College will become a sponsored academy within the Fairfax Multi Academy Trust (FMAT). Mr Bird (CEO FMAT) will write to parents with further details next week but we are hopeful of a conversion for September 2016, in time for the start of the new school year.

What does this mean for the school?

The Fairfax Trust is a group of dedicated professionals who first and foremost care about children and young adults. The aim of the Trust is to support through collaboration. The lead school, Fairfax School, is a high performing 11-18 academy in Sutton Coldfield with a tradition of high academic standards, impeccable standards of behaviour and a commitment to extra-curricular activities.

This conversion secures the future of KSSC at a time of financial constraint for schools. Many parents will know that Fairfax has been working closely with KSSC over the past year in a school-to-school arrangement brokered by the LA. The support has played a key role in driving the rapid improvements, validated by the successful Ofsted visit in November last year. The students know Mr Bird and Mr Stevens (Director of Education of the Trust, acting Head at Fairfax) and there are already close links between leaders and teachers at Fairfax, Bournville School and here at KSSC.

School Name

The Trust has to make a decision about the school name. The proposed new name for the school is **Fairfax Erdington Academy**

The school was actually opened in 1918 as Ryland Road Council Secondary School; the school has also been known as Erdington Girls County Grammar School, and Erdington Council Secondary School. The Trust believes in all schools celebrating their rich history whatever the school name. Some reasons for the choice of Fairfax Erdington Academy:

- Staff, parents and members of the community know of the excellent reputation of Fairfax; by having Fairfax in our name they will know we are part of the Trust.
- Erdington celebrates our location and our history, Erdington is an urban village with a rich diverse, multi-cultural make-up reflecting the school's population.
- This name provides an opportunity for a fresh start for the school in the next stage of its development.

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Uniform

I did write to parents before Easter saying that the rebranding of the school could result in a new uniform. Mrs Cross, Assistant Headteacher, has been working with the student leadership team exploring options for a new uniform. Clearly we want the uniform to look smart but we want it to be affordable for parents; Mr Bird will confirm next week if some sponsorship funds are available to support parents. The uniform will remain a formal uniform with a blazer and tie, reflecting the ethos of the school and the Trust. For safety reasons all students will be expected to wear a clip-on tie.

Parents Forum

A reminder that there is a Parents' Forum meeting today, Thursday 21st April 2016, and mock ups of the proposed uniform will be on show. The Parents Forum begins at 5.30 pm and will last approximately half an hour, those parents who have children in Year 11 are invited remain at 6.00 pm for a 30 minute session about supporting their child for examination success.

If you have any questions or comments to make about the academy conversion and the changes I have mentioned, your comments would be most welcome to gmcnab@kingsbury.bham.sch.uk. Headteacher's PA.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Rhatigan
Headteacher