Dorchester Primary School
D.P.S.
Placing high quality learning at the heart of achievement

26 February 2015

Dear Mum, Dad or Carer

Academy Conversion

We are writing to inform you that we are seeking permission from the Education Funding Agency to operate from Single Academy Status to Multi-Trust Academy Status the following schools:

Collingwood Primary	**Eastfield Primary**	**Bellfield Primary**
Thorseby Primary	**Wansbeck Primary**	**Sutton Park Primary**

Each Academy will still have its own funding agreement and Governors. The schools converting will not be taken over by a sponsor or run by any other organisation, we will be directly funded and accountable to the Secretary of State rather than the Local Authority.

Benefits to Schools:

- Autonomy, the chance to focus on your own schools initiatives;
- The chance to be innovative without having to justify change;
- The ability to select which services to buy and who to buy them from, thereby achieving best value;
- The ability to put the money where it suits student needs;
- The chance to consult with staff and unions about possible changes, eg term times, length of day;
- Having financial certainty, knowing the budget well in advance and working on a September to July budget which matches improvement planning;
- Decision making is easier and more accountable for school governors as each trustee can be given responsibility for specific tasks and areas of work, thus removing the need for big committees;
- The opportunity to give breadth and relevance to the curriculum.

Irrespective of Dorchester's conversion to an MAT we will:

- Continue to offer inclusive and comprehensive education to your children;
- Remain a school at the heart of the local community with currently the same admissions criteria;
- Continue to recruit and retain the highest calibre staff and retain existing terms and conditions for current staff, teaching and non-teaching;
- Use additional finances wisely to address key priorities;
- Continue to collaborate with the other schools and other partners to benefit students and staff;
- Currently keep the school day and school year within the local context.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs G Olsson
Head Teacher