



25 March 2017

From: The Challenge Academy Trust
c/o Priestley College
Loushers Lane
Warrington

Dear Stakeholders

Proposed Conversion of Priestley College to Academy Status

You will be aware that the Governing Body (corporation) of Priestley College (the “College”) has applied for the College to become an Academy under the Academies Act 2010 and join The Challenge Academy Trust. A consultation on the dissolution and the conversion to Academy has already been carried out by the College between 3 October 2016 and 30 November 2016 (the “Proposal”).

The Challenge Academy Trust (the “Trust”) is now consulting with stakeholders on whether the College’s conversion to academy status should take place in accordance with DfE Guidance set out in respect of Sixth Form Colleges converting to 16-19 Academies. Stakeholders can find all the relevant information about the Proposal at <http://www.priestley.ac.uk/parents/>

The Corporation of the College has submitted an application to convert to Academy status and is working towards a conversion on 1 May 2017. However, the College is not obligated to become an Academy until the contract between the Academy Trust and the Department for Education (known as the Funding Agreement) is signed.

The Academy Trust will not agree to sign the Funding Agreement until all stakeholders have had the opportunity to further comment on whether the conversion should take place. As you will be aware, the College has already held information sessions. The College has also held meetings with staff, and will be keeping students informed throughout the process.

However, we would be keen to hear any comments or representations which are made about the proposals, these will be considered by the College before a decision is taken to sign the Funding Agreement. Details of how to provide comments and representations are set out below.

How can I make find out more?

There is information about Academies on the DfE website. We are in the first wave of those Sixth Form Colleges who are looking to convert to Academy Status <http://www.education.gov.uk/academies>

For copies of the model funding agreements, please go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements-multi-academy-trust>

We welcome any additional feedback you have about these proposals. Again, we are particularly keen to hear from interested parties in relation to the following:

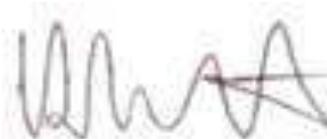
- 1) Do you support the Proposal?
- 2) Do you have any additional comments, questions or suggestions that you would like us to consider?

You can respond to the consultation in the following ways:

- By emailing [c.blinkhorn@priestley.ac.uk]
- By writing to Consultation, [c/o C Blinkhorn, Priestley College, Loushers Lane, Warrington, WA4 6RD]

The consultation begins on 25 March 2017 closing date for representations to be made is 24 April 2017 at 4pm.

Yours faithfully



Howard Platt

Chair of the Trustees of the Trust
For and on behalf of the Trust



Reg Haslam

Chair of Priestley College Governing Body