

26th March 2015

Dear Parents

I have written in the past about plans for this School to become an Academy. There was a Governors' meeting yesterday, 25th March, 2015 at which Academy status was again discussed.

There have been huge delays caused by questions from the Charity Commission and the Department for Education, particularly concerning the Royal Alexandra and Albert School Act 1949 which regulates the way the School is set up.

Whilst these issues are slowly being resolved, the general situation around Academies has changed and there is no financial advantage now in moving to Academy status.

Governors thus agreed that they would do nothing until after the General Election when the new political landscape for education becomes clear, but they now think it unlikely that the School will transfer to Academy status in the foreseeable future.

The question of Academy status has not affected the programme to improve and expand our boarding provision. The first Sixth Form students moved into the Cornwall annexe after February half term and there is further capacity for Sixth Form boarding in the Gloucester annexe. These developments have put us in a good position to meet the demand for Sixth Form boarding which is becoming increasingly popular.

The ongoing programme of site maintenance continues and during the Easter holidays there will be contractors carrying out improvements to the roads on site.

Following the GCSE and A Level mocks a lot of support has been put in place to help pupils achieve the best possible grades in their summer examinations. There will be more revision sessions next term so every pupil will have access to support right up until the exams start. These sessions are not compulsory. It is up to the pupils themselves to turn up to any sessions they need in order to improve their chances of good grades in the summer.

I wish you all an enjoyable Easter break.

Paul D Spencer Ellis
Headmaster