

24th September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Consultation on Conversion to Academy Status

You may be aware that the DfE issued the school with a Directive Academy Order (DAO) in May 2016 mandating that the school will become an academy once a suitable sponsor has been identified. We are now in a position to confirm that Star Academies has been identified to be the sponsor for the school and this choice has been welcomed and approved by the Local Governing Body.

This decision is the outcome of ongoing discussions between the School, Local Authority, and the Regional Schools Commissioner to identify the right sponsor to lead the school and bring new capacity to support school improvement.

Star Academies has been chosen thanks to its track record of sustaining and improving schools, its core values, and ambitions and aspirations for young people. Star will become our Academy sponsor, working with the staff and community to support Fearn's as we continue to improve. You can find out more about Star Academies here <http://www.staracademies.org>.

Star Academies runs a diverse network of primary and secondary schools. It has 24 schools working together in five cluster areas – Lancashire, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, the Midlands and London. Star Academies is one of the country's leading education providers, with all of the Trust's schools that have been inspected so far by Ofsted having been judged to be outstanding. Its schools promote excellence in everything they do, with a child-centred vision and focus on educational excellence, character development and service to local communities. All Star schools share a commitment to nurturing today's young people and inspiring tomorrow's leaders. Fearn's will benefit from a national network of support, resources and opportunities, as we continue to improve educational standards for our students.

The proposal is to convert to academy status in February 2019. There will be a six-week statutory consultation process in which parents, carers, staff, governors and other stakeholders will be able to state their views on the proposal to convert to Academy status.

The consultation period will run from **25 September 2018 to 6 November 2018**, and there will be a variety of ways in which parents and carers can contribute.

- We will be making available, on our website, a consultation document and questionnaire to enable parents and families to respond – www.fearnslancessch.uk/academy.
- There will be a consultation event at Fearn's Community Sports College on **Wednesday 26 September at 6 - 7pm** where parents and families will be able to find out more information, ask questions and express their views.
- We will also be providing regular information on the school's website to explain more about what converting to become an Academy and being sponsored by Star will mean for Fearn's Community Sports College.

We hope you will be able to contribute to the consultation and we encourage you to join us at the consultation event.

Beyond this formal consultation period, we will continue to work closely with parents and continually seek your feedback. This ongoing engagement will be critical to our approach, and the success of the school moving forward. Please also visit our school website for regular updates.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Stead', written in a cursive style.

Helen Stead
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Styles', written in a cursive style.

Sue Styles
Chair of Governors