

	<p>available opportunity and details were placed on the school website. An information leaflet was sent out to all parents on Tuesday 26th April informing them of the meeting on Wednesday 4th May.</p>
<p>Will there be any impact on the Primary Schools?</p>	<p>Our relationships with our feeder Primary Schools are very important. We will maintain and further develop the current partnerships with the Normanton & Altofts family of schools to ensure we continue to work well together.</p>
<p>What sort of ‘freedoms’ do you envisage having?</p>	<p>Having Academy status will provide us with independence from the Local Authority and offer us the freedom to determine how best to allocate resources and control the quality of our services. It is these freedoms that the Governors believe will help Freeston to continue to drive up standards and ensure that our students receive a first class education with innovative teaching practice that enables students to have a challenging and satisfying school experience”</p>
<p>How will you be complying with the freedom of information act once you are an academy?</p>	<p>We will continue to comply with the Freedom of Information Act.</p>
<p>What evidence have you that academies lead to better results? The data on Academies does not always show this.</p>	<p>It is important to note that this data refers to a different set of Academies; these were often failing schools with very poor results that were closed and reopened as Academies with a new Head and Governing Body. The ‘new’ Academies (this is the category that we would be in) are schools who are not in an OFSTED category and are seeking to provide an outstanding education for their students and move the school to its next level of development.</p>
<p>Which functions remain the statutory responsibility of the LA?</p>	<p>The LA continues to have statutory responsibilities for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home to school transport • Education psychology, SEN statementing and assessment • Monitoring of SEN provision • Prosecution of parents for non-attendance • Individually assigned SEN resources for pupils with rare conditions needing individually

	<p>tailored provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of pupil referral units or education otherwise for a pupil who is no longer registered at an academy
Is the College planning to change the school uniform?	Any decision regarding uniform will not be linked to Academy status. We introduced the summer uniform two years ago and in the future, if the uniform is to change, a full consultation process with parents, students, staff and governors will take place.
Would the school times change?	The College may change its school day in consultation with parents and other stakeholders. Academy status does not change this. There are no plans to change the school timings, lesson duration or the school terms for the next academic year.
ADMISSIONS	
Will the admission arrangements change?	Freeston will become its own admissions authority but we will be maintaining the admissions criteria that we currently use and we will still be following the School Admissions Code. Applications for places at the school will still come under Local Authority coordination; parents will only need to complete one admissions form. The school catchment area will remain the same as it is now. The Local Authority cannot change an Academy's catchment area.
My son/daughter is due to start in September 2011. Will this still happen if they are offered a place?	Yes, all students who are offered a place will be able to join Freeston in September 2011. We have already devised our timetable for a rollover in June and 167 new Year 7 students will join us in September.
Can the Academy bring in academic selection?	Academies are not permitted to start selecting students. Freeston will retain its comprehensive nature and the school will not be selecting its students.
You say that academies cannot select pupils – in fact they have the right to select 10% of pupils on academic basis	Academies are not allowed to select students on an academic basis. It is possible for schools that run their own

<p>– will you be doing this in future?</p>	<p>admissions to select in terms of aptitude for a particular specialist area; this does not apply to Business & Enterprise and we would not be selecting even if that option were available.</p>
<p>CURRICULUM</p>	
<p>Will the students still have to follow the national curriculum?</p>	<p>Although academies have more flexibility about the curriculum that they wish to deliver, all of our students will still follow a broad and balanced curriculum that is suited to their particular needs.</p>
<p>How will this affect the curriculum that is being taught?</p>	<p>Although Academies do have more flexibility over their curriculum arrangements our decision to convert to Academy status will have no immediate impact upon the taught curriculum. Changes to the curriculum are made in the light of educational policy and in the interests and needs of our students. The new E Bac is impacting on all schools regardless of whether or not they have chosen to become an Academy.</p>
<p>How can we be sure that all subjects across the curriculum will get a fair share of these ‘extra’ resources mentioned in the letter?</p>	<p>The Governing body, Trustees and Headteacher of the school will continue to work hard to ensure that resource allocation is the most appropriate to serve the needs of the students</p>
<p>How can I be certain that my child will be able to study the national curriculum subjects as if at any other school as you have the power to change the curriculum as you wish?</p>	<p>It is a misconception that Academies can ‘do what they like’ with the curriculum. Although there is greater flexibility, the requirement to provide a broad and balanced curriculum remains. We are proud of our curriculum and the opportunities that it offers young people; the curriculum will continue to evolve over time to best suit the educational needs of our students but it will always be based upon a strong core of subjects that will be studied throughout KS3 and KS4. Recent E Bac changes apply to all schools in England regardless of status.</p>
<p>Will being an Academy mean less opportunity to study subjects such as MFL, History & Geography?</p>	<p>It is important not to confuse our Academy with the 'old' Academies. The ‘new’ Academies (this is the category that we would be in) are schools who are seeking to ensure that they aim to provide an outstanding education for their students. We have always valued MFL, History and Geography within our</p>

	curriculum and have a good take-up at GCSE. We see no reason why this will not continue.
GOVERNANCE	
How will parents through the governors be able to ensure that they school still provides the sort of education they want?	There will still be parent governors and parents will be able to address concerns through the school complaints procedure. There will also be an Annual General Meeting of the Academy Trust Board.
How can we be sure that you will be accountable to the community and not just do what you like with the curriculum?	It is a misconception that Academies 'can do what they like' with the curriculum. Although there is flexibility, the requirement to provide a broad and balanced curriculum remains. We are proud of our curriculum and the opportunities that it offers young people; the curriculum will continue to evolve over time to best suit the educational needs of our students. One of the bases of becoming an Academy is that we continue to serve the needs and interests of the local community –this will form part of our funding agreement with the Secretary of State
What steps will you put into place to ensure that our views will still be heard?	We are not changing any of our procedures in this regard. We will continue to welcome the views and opinions of parents as we do at present. Parents will still be on our Governing Body and the Parents Forum welcome new members.
What provisions will you be making to ensure parents are enabled to complain if they are dissatisfied with the provision for their child?	We have, independently of the Local Authority, developed our own complaints procedures. Should these not satisfy a complaint then the complainant may appeal to the Secretary of State
SEN	
How will becoming an Academy affect the Special Needs Department?	Although becoming an Academy means that we will no longer be maintained by the Local Authority we will still have the same responsibilities to our SEN students as we currently do. Indeed, we are certain that there will be no disruption to the

	provision for SEN students as the school transfers to Academy status.
Will you still have to follow the same guidelines as now?	As an Academy we will still have a duty to follow the SEN code of practice, use best endeavours to meet any special needs of students and have a SEN policy; this mirrors the legislative requirements on maintained schools. As you would expect, disability discrimination legislation also applies equally to Academies as to any maintained school.
Who will be responsible for assessing students? Who will pay for the assessments?	The Local Authority will still have some statutory responsibilities with regard to SEN children within Academies. As well as ensuring that individually assigned resources follow the child it will retain funding for: SEN statementing and assessment; home to school transport; the monitoring of SEN provision. We will obviously work with the Local Authority in these matters to ensure that our students are appropriately provided for.
Will SEN children be funded?	We will continue to receive funding for our SEN students: some of this funding will be granted centrally and will simply replicate the funding that we currently receive; some funding will be additional, in order to allow us to access the services currently provided by the Local Authority; where students have individually assigned resources attached to their statement then those resources will continue to follow the child regardless of whether they attend a maintained school or an Academy.
14-19	
What about students staying on?	14-19 will become part of the Academy. We do hope that as we deepen our partnerships with other schools and colleges that we will be able to offer an even greater range of courses that best suit the needs of our students, particularly in Engineering, Hospitality & Catering, Public Services and giving students the chance to improve GCSE grades in Maths & English. We await confirmation of the

	building proposals to our site to be able to start this provision in September 2012.
BUILDINGS	The school was part of the BSF programme which is now 'on hold'. As an Academy we can apply for capital build funding direct from Government.
Will becoming an Academy be a 'risky business'?	<p>No, becoming an Academy gives us the freedom to choose our own insurance provider(s) and obtain policies that offer better value for money and a wider choice of cover.</p> <p>It should be noted that 7 other schools will become Academies by September 2011.</p>
TEACHERS	
What happens to my son/daughter's teachers?	The governing body of the School become the employers of staff working in the Academy. Under Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) arrangements when the transfer to an Academy takes effect the employees automatically become employees of the new employer under the same terms and conditions as they previously had. Pay and pay progression will therefore be unaffected by the conversion to Academy status.
How will the conditions and pay of the teachers change?	The Governing Body of the School become the employers of staff working in the Academy. Under Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) arrangements when the transfer to an Academy takes effect the employees automatically become employees of the new employer under the same terms and conditions as they previously had. Pay and pay progression will therefore be unaffected by the conversion to Academy status.

<p>Will the academy still recognise Trades Unions? And their rights to protect the pay and conditions of the workers?</p>	<p>Yes, existing Trade Union recognition will transfer along with the staff</p>
<p>FURTHER INFORMATION</p>	
<p>How can I find out more about Academies?</p>	<p>As part of the consultation process we will be issuing further guidance and documentation about Academies, via links on the website.</p>
<p>Who can I ask if I have further questions?</p>	<p>FAQs will be posted on the website and addressed at the Parents' Information Evening on Wednesday 4th May at 6pm.</p>