



## **Responses to questions from the Parents' Consultation Meeting on Wednesday the 15 June 2016**

### **1. Are there other schools in the Trust?**

FET is a newly approved Academy Sponsor, Queensbury and Feversham College will be the only schools in the Trust.

### **2. What are the plans for growth and what types of schools will be in the Trust in future? Will there be a mix?**

FET is currently envisaging a Trust of approximately 8 schools, with a mix of Primary and Secondary schools. In the future we have already had discussions around the types and mix of schools that a fully inclusive Trust would need. It is envisaged that Feversham College is likely to be the only faith school in the MAT moving forward. The Trust has been established to sponsor both faith and non-faith schools.

### **3. Can the Trust be 'made' to take on schools?**

MATs currently have a very positive working relationship with the Regional Schools Commissioner, Vicky Beer who has delegated powers of intervention in failing schools and academies. There are positive discussions and support for newly established MATs to build capacity and grow. Nothing is forced upon MATs.

### **4. Will the curriculum change as a result of sponsorship?**

We have already had discussions about the curriculum offer at Queensbury. There is the statutory curriculum that all schools must adhere to. The emphasis is on appropriate curriculum pathways for pupils and equality of opportunity for access to Ebacc (English, Maths, Science, Humanities and MFL) curriculum for pupils. We have also discussed the number of curriculum hours the school spends on core subjects. Like Queensbury, the Trust aims to provide a broad and balanced curriculum than enables all learners to achieve the best possible outcomes regardless of starting points.

### **5. Had other Multi Academy Trusts been considered? And why FET?**

Absolutely. The school has come a long way since the change of Headteacher three years ago. However achievement is still not where it needs to be. Schools can no longer work in isolation and have all the answers to school improvement. The school wanted a sponsor that:

- a. Recognised the journey of Queensbury to date, ie a full change of Senior Leaders and teaching staff restructure.
- b. The capacity the sponsor has to actually make a 'real' difference. It is the additional capacity the school has to offer for Leadership at all levels and teaching and learning that will make the greatest difference.

Many sponsors approached did not have such capacity to offer the school. As a Teaching School, Feversham College has already sought funding and provided school to school support for Queensbury for over 6 months. For those reasons FET are the preferred sponsor and have discussed plans with the school and Governors who feel they will make a positive difference to pupils and staff as a sponsor.

## **6. How long is the commitment to work together?**

As a sponsor the agreement is forever in principle, unless of course there is deemed to be 'failure'.

## **7. Will the current Headteacher remain in post?**

Yes.

## **8. Has the Trust conducted Due Diligence yet?**

Yes the Trust has and at this stage the main risk to the Trust is the current state of the buildings and the cost to 'bring them up to a reasonable standard'.

## **9. Can the Trust help with a new building?**

Unfortunately not. There are no longer huge pots of monies for full school re-builds anymore. We can however, apply to the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) for funding for the building when the school converts to an Academy.

## **10. Will the school have control over its own finances?**

The school will contribute to FET central services (likely to be 4% of the budget) the remaining money is for Queensbury pupils and will be spent accordingly to the key priorities identified.

## **11. Will there be opportunities for students and staff to work together?**

Staff across the school have begun to work closely together in a variety of posts which is beneficial to both schools. It is our intention that students will work together, likely to start with Student Leadership.

## **12. Will there be commonalities of school policies?**

The Trust (in collaboration) are working on Trust wide policies where appropriate. There will also be individual school policies where appropriate for all schools within the Trust.

**13. When is the suggested conversion to Academy Status?**

1<sup>st</sup> September 2016.

**14. Are there any plans to change the school name?**

No.

**15. Are there any plans to change the school uniform?**

No.

**16. Are there any plans to change the Admissions?**

No. Academies like all schools are legally bound by the schools admissions code. If there were any proposed changes in the future there would be a statutory consultation period.

**17. Can the school change its holiday schedule?**

As an Academy the school can set its own term and holiday dates.