

# Proposal to become an academy and join Every Child, Every Day Academy Trust



The Governing Body of Chessington School is proposing that the school becomes an academy school within the Every Child, Every Day Academy Trust with whom it has worked closely since 2018. The Governing Body would welcome your feedback about this proposal before it makes a final decision.

The consultation closes on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Please share your views before then.

## Rationale for the proposal

Chessington School has worked in partnership with the Every Child, Every Day Academy Trust (“ECED”) since 2017/18. ECED includes two other secondary schools – Grey Court School in Ham, Richmond, and Hollyfield School in Surbiton, Kingston. Since 2018 Mr Ali has been working with senior leaders at ECED in areas such as curriculum development, assessment and tracking of pupil progress, safeguarding and well-being. In September 2019 Mr Ali became the interim Chief Executive of ECED as well as the Headteacher of Chessington. The schools have been working together as a family of schools and have seen benefits already such as staffing, development of curriculum and financial savings.

Joining the trust enables Chessington’s governors and leaders to plan for the future within a secure partnership with Grey Court and Hollyfield. It allows Chessington’s teachers to share best practice that will improve the teaching at all three schools. Extensive joint medium term planning and collaboration in areas such as staffing and training is more difficult while the other schools are within ECED and we are a maintained school within Kingston Council.

Both Grey Court and Hollyfield are high performing schools, with Grey Court having been judged as ‘outstanding’ at its last two Ofsted inspections. We believe that all three schools would benefit from Chessington joining as it provides greater collective staff expertise that can be shared and developed for the benefit of each school and all of our pupils.

## Implications of the proposal

If Chessington School does become an academy within the Every Child, Every Day Academy Trust it would:

- Retain the values and ethos that are long established at Chessington School;
- Retain the name ‘Chessington School’;
- Retain the same uniform, school day timings, and continue to set the school year within the context of local schools;
- Retain the admissions criteria used to determine who is offered places; and
- Retain the existing staff (including Mr Ali as Headteacher), who would transfer their employment to ECED.

There would be no change to the ethos and values of Chessington School, nor to our expectations of students and staff. All pupils at the school would continue to attend the school.

## Context

Since 2010, government policy has allowed and encouraged the conversion of schools to academy status. Of the approximately 3,300 secondary phase schools in England, just over 2,500 are academies (77%). Within Kingston, Chessington is the only secondary school that is still maintained by Kingston Council while all of the others are academies (nine chose to convert, and one opened directly as a free school academy). Within Richmond the only secondary schools still maintained by Richmond Council are faith schools (one Church of England and one Catholic). Within the parts of Surrey closest to us all secular secondary schools have converted to academy status.

## What is an academy?

An academy is an independent state school, funded directly from central government. When a Council maintained school becomes an academy they gain some additional freedoms and responsibilities (such as regarding employment terms and conditions). The more detailed Question and Answer document (available on the Chessington website, [www.chessington.kingston.sch.uk](http://www.chessington.kingston.sch.uk)) includes more information about the differences between a community school and an academy. Further information about academies is also available on the DfE website ([www.education.gov.uk/academies](http://www.education.gov.uk/academies)).

## How can I have my say?

You can have your say by:

- Completing the online questionnaire available on the school website ([www.chessington.kingston.sch.uk](http://www.chessington.kingston.sch.uk)) (paper copies are available from the school office);
- Writing to the Headteacher at the school address;
- Attending the meeting for parents that will be held online at 6pm on 28 September 2020 (a GoogleMeet meeting link will be sent to parents in advance).

Staff at Chessington and ECED as well as other local stakeholders are also being consulted.

**The consultation closes on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Please share your views before then.**

## What happens next?

Governors will consider all responses to the consultation before they make a decision about whether to become an academy and join ECED. If the proposal proceeds, it is anticipated that Chessington would become an academy on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. If the proposal does not proceed, Chessington would remain a community school maintained by Kingston Council.