

Feedback from Year 9 School Council Meeting

Year 9 Form Reps were asked to speak to their forms and report back any points/questions that they might have on Academy status. Below is a list of questions/points that they brought to the meeting.

1. The rep from 9BB asked the whole form if they agreed with becoming an Academy. The majority were in favour. There were some, however, who said that they didn't fully understand what being an Academy actually entails.

- I think the main thing to bear in mind is that we would get our money directly from the Government rather than from Wigan. We would also be able to make all our own decisions on things like who comes to the school – and we would want to keep things very much the same. Noone would be able to make us change things against our will.

2. Will the curriculum change?

- No, certainly not in the near future. We might decide to keep certain things that we do now if there are changes to the National Curriculum that we don't like.

3. Will we take the same GCSEs?

- Yes.

4. Will the length of the school day change?

- No.

5. Does that mean that the naughty students that we sometimes have to take in the middle of a year might not come?

- We would have more control over decisions like this BUT we would still want to work with other schools and sometimes we all have to help one another.

6. After the recession, will the money we receive increase?

- Hopefully, but as you know the money is actually decreasing at the moment. We hope that becoming an Academy will help us to get over that couple of years when funding is tight.

7. Will we get a school bus?

- No real need – remember that most of our students live very close to the school.

8. If there's nothing wrong with being an Academy why are people giving leaflets out?

- Everyone is entitled to their opinion and these people don't like the idea of academies for reasons of their own. The people giving out the leaflets are not connected to the school, however, and we feel that only those who are really understand why we are considering this.

9. Would any extra money that we get from being an Academy not go to staff?

- No. Staff pay and conditions would remain the same. Any extra money will be spent to benefit students.

10. Would we be able to spend extra money on facilities such as PE?

- I don't want to exaggerate the amount of extra money we might get. In fact, it might mean that our money doesn't decrease, as it will if we remain as we are. Don't get too excited about lots of extra PE facilities, though this is one area we would like to improve if we have money.

The overall feeling from the meeting is that lots of students don't really understand what an Academy is. They would like more information.

- That is fine – would you like me to come and talk to your Year Council or the full School Council?