

15<sup>th</sup> June 2007

**Letter to Parents and Carers of Children attending Andrew Marvell Business & Enterprise College**

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION  
Changing to Foundation School Status and  
Acquiring a Charitable Trust**

Dear Parents / Carers,

Andrew Marvell Business & Enterprise College (AMBEC) is thinking about becoming a Trust School and the Governing Body has passed a resolution to consult about acquiring Trust status and changing from a Community school to a Foundation School - this letter is to explain our ideas and proposals as part of our consultation process and to ask for your views. We have also included within this letter details of the consultation process as well as the full details of our proposals in Booklet One 'Changing to Foundation School Status and Acquiring a Charitable Trust'.

**Our Proposed Trust**

Trust schools are a new kind of maintained state school - part of the Local Authority system, but supported by a charitable Trust that will appoint some, but not a majority, of the governors. The Governing Body will continue to run the school and be responsible for its performance and Mr McCready and his successor will continue as Head Teacher. We shall still maintain our strengths as a local comprehensive secondary school, serving our local community and as part of the local authority family of schools.

The Governors of Andrew Marvell Business & Enterprise College are proposing to establish through a Trust a long-term partnership that will bring together businesses, Pre-school providers, Primary schools, Wilberforce Sixth-Form College, Hull College, Hull University Business School, the LSC, the local PCT, the Community Farm, PROBE, Sport & Leisure providers, AMBEC and the Co-operative Group and Co-operative College. The long-term partnership with the Co-operative Group and the Co-operative College will be built upon by this new relationship endeavouring to provide continuity and stability for the Trust.

**Why should AMBEC consider acquiring a Trust and changing to Foundation status?**

This partnership will devote itself to raising Community aspirations through valuing Education and thereby embedding lifelong learning and lifelong earning in the Community that will enable regeneration and therefore benefit all members of the Community. The intention is to provide a continuum of educational and vocational opportunity for individuals and family members from birth and through retirement. Each member will bring benefits to the Trust and the Community and derive mutual benefit from being a member of the Trust with the totality of the contributions from members bringing benefits to the Community exceeding the sum of the individual parts. The added value our Trust and external partners bring will be seen in terms of:

- Raising aspirations through embedding the value of Education in the Community
- A global perspective rooted in co-operative values
- Providing lifelong learning and earning opportunities
- Empowering learners and promoting active citizenship
- Membership open to parents and (subject to legal constraints) staff
- Synergistic relationships between partners
- Opportunities for individual portfolios
- Creating an environment where all learners of any age have access to and support for a wider range of learning opportunities

### **What does this mean for parents?**

The College will remain part of the local authority's family of maintained schools - this means that we will still teach the National Curriculum and we will continue to be bound by the School Admissions Code (like all other schools). We will be reviewing our Admissions' Policy to reflect the closer working arrangements with our main partner primary schools which will come about if our proposals are agreed; further details are in the consultation document. The College will retain its specialist school status, its adherence to traditional values, its core purpose which places the College at the centre of the community and a commitment to innovation for the benefit of all.

It is not envisaged that the number of parent governors will alter, The Governors appointed by the Trust will be a minimum of two and always in a minority on the College Governing Body. The current situation of appointing Community Governors, Local Authority Governors and Staff Governors will be maintained.

### **How can I find out more information?**

The College has produced two booklets that provide further information:

1. Booklet 1 'Changing to Foundation School Status and Acquiring a Charitable Trust'. (This booklet is included with this letter).
2. Booklet 2 'Changing to Foundation School Status and Acquiring a Charitable Trust - Questions & Answers' (This booklet is available upon request from the College).

All information is also available on the College website [www.andrew-marvell.com](http://www.andrew-marvell.com)

### **Consultation Process**

Please let us know what you think about the proposal. You can:

Talk to parent governors (Mrs D Rymer, Mr C Webster or Mr N Ripley). In order to arrange this, please contact Ms K Burrell at the College;

Send back our consultation questionnaire which is included with this letter or write to us at the school (the address is on the front page of this letter);

Come to the open meeting for Parents at 7pm on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July, in the College's Main Hall, to discuss the proposals with the Head Teacher, Governors and representatives of the College's partners. This will be an open parents meeting for all the schools involved.

You can comment at any time until Friday 20th July 2007. The governors will then review all the comments and will decide whether to go ahead (and whether to amend the proposals to reflect your suggestions and concerns). Parents and staff will be given an opportunity to view the feedback to our proposals, a summary of which will be posted on our website and there will be another chance to comment on any formal proposals which might be made during the summer term, before a final decision is taken.

Mr B Jacobs

Chair of Governors