

Consultations on proposals to create The Malling Holmesdale Federation Trust12th September 2008

Dear parents, students, staff and members of the local community,

Both Holmesdale Technology College and The Malling School have seen a considerable rise in their exam results this year and have been graded as 'Good' in their recent Ofsted inspections. The new buildings with their superb facilities and the quality of the teaching and learning are providing local students with a first class education. However, we want to continue to build on this achievement so both schools are considering becoming Trust schools.

This new type of school, still part of the Local Authority system, would continue to operate as it does as present with a Governing Body which is responsible for the performance of the schools. However, we would gain the support, expertise and ideas of Trust partner organisations who share our aims and determination to provide the very best educational and personal opportunities to our students and community. We would also gain the support and benefits of a charitable Trust which would appoint 2 members to join the Governing Body which would continue to have representatives from parents and staff.

We already work with a range of partners in different ways at both schools – this will continue - but we hope to develop some of these in a more formal and deeper way.

***'What will be the main objectives for the schools and our Trust partners?'*...**

- to increase community involvement and influence on the direction of the schools
- to use the expertise and experience of partners to support and strengthen the future development of the schools' specialisms (Technology, Sport, Science)
- to help to prepare students to become independent lifelong learners with the skills and abilities to become effective 21st century citizens

***'How can we achieve these goals?'*...**

We intend to do this by working together to:

- widen the range of educational experiences available to students
- increase staff development opportunities
- raise educational, vocational and employment aspirations and opportunities within the schools and wider community

***'Who have we asked to be our partners and what are their strengths?'*...**

- Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council – healthy living, community links
- Mid-Kent College – the transition from school to further education
- Buckmore Park Kart Circuit and Learning Zone – improving students' key skills and work related learning
- David Lloyd Leisure – enhancing the sport specialism

'What would change?'...

- ✓ Holmesdale Technology College is currently a Community School and would have to change category to become a Foundation school like The Malling School. This would happen as part of the process of becoming a Trust school and would mean that both schools' staff are then employed by the Governing Body and not the Local Authority
- ✓ We would gain 2 extra Trust, or 'Foundation Governors' on the Governing Body. The schools would not be 'owned' or controlled by businesses or allowed to take a profit from the Trust.
- ✓ The Governing Body would set its own admission arrangements but would still be bound by the School Admissions Code like all other schools

'What would stay the same?'...

- ✓ The existing rights of staff, their pay and conditions will be fully protected and teaching and professional associations and support staff unions will continue to be recognised
- ✓ Both schools will continue to work to the National Curriculum & be inspected by Ofsted
- ✓ The schools will still be part of the Local Childrens' Services Partnerships and will not have extra funding
- ✓ Views of parents and staff will not be able to be ignored as their representation on the Governing body will remain at the current levels

The Consultation process:

We very much want to know what you think about our proposals. Now you've read a brief summary of what is planned, we invite you to let us know what you think by **FRIDAY 10th OCTOBER 2008**: You can do this by:

- Reading the full proposal document and other background information on the Federation website: www.mhfederation.co.uk
- Reading a paper copy of the proposal and other documents at the Snodland and Larkfield libraries or at either school Reception office
- Completing our questionnaire – either (a) post the completed copy on the opposite page and return to the Clerk of Governors, Holmesdale Technology College, Malling Road, Snodland, ME6 5HS or (b) complete the survey online at the Federation address above or (c) write to the Clerk of Governors
- Contacting Holmesdale Technology College on 01634 240416 – ask for 'Trust school information'
- Coming along to a public meeting where you can ask questions:
Tuesday 16th September: 4.30pm or 5.30pm at both schools
Wednesday 17th September : 9.00am at Holmesdale only

You do not have to be a parent of a child at either of the schools to give us your views – we want to hear from anyone who has an interest in the future of the schools and the local community. The Governors will consider all comments and will decide whether to go ahead or amend the proposals to reflect any suggestions and concerns. The result of their considerations will be published on the website from 15th October and a paper copy will be available to read at both schools and Snodland and Larkfield Libraries.

Parents of students at both schools will receive a copy which will be given to students to take home. We look forward to hearing your views.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Sams – Federation Chair of Governors
Ian Hobson – Federation Executive Principal

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