

Statutory consultation on the future of Earlham High School, Norwich

This leaflet describes the proposal to replace Earlham High School with a new Academy and the steps that we have to take over the coming months. The new Academy cannot open until Earlham High School has been formally closed. To do this the County Council has to follow a legal process, so that people can make comments or register objections before the final decision is made. We would like you to read it and then tell us what you think.



Norfolk County Council
at your service

Replacing Earlham High School With A New Academy

The Proposal

The County Council proposes to close Earlham High School from 31 August 2009 and establish in its place an Academy for 1100 pupils aged 11 - 19 from 1 September 2009. The Academy will be supported by a strong local partnership of colleges and schools to inspire success for young people of the Earlham area. The school will be substantially rebuilt to provide high quality modern facilities and the plan is for new buildings to be completed on the same site by 2012.

Why replace Earlham? Why not leave it as it is?

Exam results for young people at Earlham have been very low for some years and in May 2007 the school was judged by Ofsted inspectors as needing Special Measures. The hard work of pupils, staff and governors has led to an improvement in the most recent GCSE results, but we think there is more we can do to help its pupils achieve better. We believe that an Academy will provide exciting new opportunities for young people and the wider community in the Earlham area. This is why Norfolk County Council is proud to join with Norwich City College, the lead sponsor, together with UEA and Norwich School in supporting this project.

How will an Academy be better?

Academies are a new way of providing secondary education led by sponsors who bring with them skills, knowledge and resources to transform how and what our children learn. They have modern well-designed buildings, equipped with state-of-the-art teaching materials, technology and resources. The sponsors and partners at Earlham want to create an Academy that will inspire success for the young people of the area. The Academy will provide outstanding education and skills opportunities to prepare young people for the next steps into further and higher education, adult life and the world of work through:

- Learning designed for the needs of each student
- teaching excellence
- high expectations and personal support for every student
- specialisms in English and Digital Technology
- an emphasis on business enterprise and employability
- a strong focus on improving literacy and numeracy
- building on Earlham's existing focus upon sport
- students having a say in how the Academy operates

The Academy and its facilities will be open to the local community beyond the school day so that everyone will be able to use what it has to offer.

If Earlham closes, will its pupils be guaranteed a place at the Academy that replaces it?

Yes – there will be enough places at the new Academy for all existing Earlham High School pupils. Because we want the Academy to be at the heart of the local community, the rules for admission to the Academy will be the same as they are now for Earlham. The Academy will not select pupils by academic ability or religious faith. Parents and carers do not have to send their child to the new Academy unless they wish to and they can ask that their child attends any other local high school or Academy. If there are

places, their child will be given a place. If there are no places, their child's name can either go on the waiting list for this school or their parents and carers can appeal for a place.

Will parents and carers have to pay for their child to go to the Academy?

No – all Academies provide free secondary education for all pupils.

If Earlham closes, what will happen to the pupils with special educational needs?

The Academy will be fully inclusive and provide education for children of all abilities in line with all other schools in the city.

If Earlham closes, what will happen to the staff?

The governing body of the new Academy will be responsible for appointing staff. Existing Earlham High School staff whose roles match those in the new Academy will transfer to the new Academy as set out in the legal arrangements.

If an Academy replaces Earlham, will children still be entitled to free travel passes and free school meals?

Pupils attending Academies will be entitled to free travel passes and free school meals in exactly the same way as those attending other local high schools.

What will the Academy be called?

The Academy's name will be decided over the coming months and we would be interested in any suggestions that the local community might have.

What happens next?

Your view will help County Council Cabinet to make a decision about the future of Earlham High School. There are a number of legal stages we have to go through and this first stage of the process will end on **13 February 2009**. The result of this consultation will be discussed by the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 11 March and the proposal reported to County Council Cabinet on 6 April. They will decide whether to go to the next stage when people will again be able to say what they think over a further six week period before a final decision is made on 15 June.

There will also be opportunities to hear more about the detailed proposals for the Academy over the coming months. We will send you more information as soon as it is available and let you know how your ideas can influence preparations for the Academy.

Why is this happening so quickly?

We believe that it is important to begin the process of transforming secondary education in the Earlham area as soon as possible so that young people can benefit from the new opportunities. This consultation is just the first stage of the process and there will be more information about what is being proposed and further opportunities to give your views about how the Academy could develop.

Further information

If you need any more information about any aspect of the proposals, please contact us on 01603 223905.

Have your say

We'd like to hear what you think about our proposal to close Earlham High School and replace it with an Academy. You can send your views in writing via the internet or by email, telephone or fax, or use the form at the back of this leaflet.

Write to us at:

Director of Children's Services
School Organisation and Review
Freepost **IH 2076**
Room 20, County Hall
Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR

Email us at: schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk**Call us at: 01603 223905****Fax us at: 01603 223838****www.norfolk.gov.uk/earlham**

Written comments can be made between 5 January and 13 February 2009.

We are also having a 'drop in' day when you discuss the proposals and tell us in person what you think. You can come and talk to us on Monday 2 February at any time between 1 pm and 9pm: please drop in any time. There will be a presentation by representatives of the sponsors at 7pm to let you know about their vision for the new Academy, when you will also be able to let them know your ideas.

Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet

Consultation on the proposal to close Earlham High School and replace it with an Academy

Please tell us who you are:

First name:Last name:

Your address:

Postcode:Telephone:.....

Email address:

Please tick box as appropriate:

☐

I am a pupil at Earlham High School

☐

I am a pupil at another school

☐

I am the parent/guardian of a pupil at Earlham High School

☐

I am the parent/guardian of a pupil at another school

☐

I am a member of staff at Earlham High School

☐

I am a member of staff at another school

☐

I am a governor at Earlham High School

☐

I am a governor at another school

☐

None of the above

Please state other connections/interest (e.g. Local resident, member of Parent Teacher Association, local sports group or business).

.....

What do you think about our proposal to close Earlham High School and replace it with an Academy? – please tick one box only.

I support the proposal

☐

I do not support the proposal

☐

Please give your main reasons for your answer to this proposal.

Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to make to help us with this decision and in planning for the future of secondary education in Earlham?

Your view will help County Council Cabinet Members to make a decision about the future of Earlham High School. This first consultation stage will end on **13 February 2009**. The result will be reported to Cabinet on 6 April 2009 who will decide whether to issue a formal public notice to close the school.

An electronic version of this reply form can be found on the website **www.norfolk.gov.uk/earlham** We will summarise the responses and place them on this website at the end of the consultation period.

Your comments will be anonymous and will not contain your name or anything that could identify you. However, we cannot guarantee that this information will be withheld if it is requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please return by 13 February 2009 via your local school or post to:

Earlham High School Consultation, FREEPOST, IH 2076, Room 20, County Hall,
Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR.

You don't need a stamp.



If you need this leaflet in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact
Tel: 01603 223905
Fax: 01603 222119
Textphone: 0844 800 8011
Email: schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk
and we will do our best to help.

Motion on Campus Norwich passed by Norwich City Council on 27 January 2009

Motion – Campus Norwich

‘The proposal for another academy in Norwich highlights the growing diversity of governance arrangements for schools and further and higher educational institutions serving the city.

The City Council recognises the importance of driving up educational achievement, but also recognises that there is an important need to coordinate standards, develop plans to meet the needs of the children and the skills and knowledge needed for a prosperous city.

The Council also believes that there should be a set of principles established for the way standards are set and achieved in the city, for consultation around major changes such as establishing academies or trust schools, and a body in place to help oversee those principles, moderate and act to ensure full consultation with parents and stakeholders when changes are proposed to the governance of educational institutions.

The Council therefore resolves to:-

Welcome the proposal being explored by the Executive to establish a ‘Campus Norwich’ partnership involving all Norwich schools and educational institutions and inclusive of families and communities to serve such a purpose and notes the intention to develop such a proposal for discussion within this Council and for wider public consultation during the next few months.’