



# Hayesfield Girls' School

*Achieving Ambitions*

December 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians

## Academy Status

You are doubtless aware of the Coalition Government's policy for state schools to become Academies. This was initially for outstanding schools only, which includes Hayesfield Girls' School, but has now been extended to include all schools. Becoming an Academy would mean that Hayesfield Girls' School would no longer be responsible to the Bath and North East Somerset Council, but would report directly to the Department for Education. I would like to thank all of you who attended the parents' consultation meeting held at Beechen Cliff School on 3<sup>rd</sup> November to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of Hayesfield Girls' School and Beechen Cliff School becoming Academies. I am pleased that there was a good turnout of parents from both schools and an interesting discussion took place.

Becoming an Academy will provide the school with some limited additional freedoms although, as we are already a foundation school, not hugely more than we currently enjoy. Financially, we would receive additional income as we would no longer have to fund the Bath and North East Somerset Council for certain central services that they procure on our behalf, although this would be offset to some extent by additional costs as the school would have to pay for these services ourselves. Should both Hayesfield and Beechen Cliff opt to become Academies, this will likely lead to a greater role for the Bath Education Trust which was launched last year, the aim of which is to provide opportunities for shared resources and staff across the member organisations. Current members are: Hayesfield Girls' School, Beechen Cliff School, City of Bath College, the University of Bath and Rotork, although we are in discussion with other schools and Higher Education Institutions with a view to expanding the membership.

I am firmly of the belief that our decision on whether or not to become an Academy should not be clouded by any particular political beliefs that we may happen to hold, but needs to be driven by what is best for the school, and in particular the schoolchildren for whom we are responsible. Please be assured that your views will be taken into account when the Governors of Hayesfield makes the decision on whether to apply for Academy status. The date of that meeting has now been set for 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010, so please contact me if you have anything to you would like to be taken into consideration via the email address of the Headteacher's PA ([h.stubbs@hayesfield.com](mailto:h.stubbs@hayesfield.com)).

Yours sincerely

Dr Colin McInnes  
Chair of Governors



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