

ASPIRATION AND ACHIEVEMENT

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL FOR THE GOLDSMITHS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

**Addey and Stanhope School, Crossways Academy, Deptford Green School
and Goldsmiths, University of London**

**A preliminary consultation
on the proposal for the three schools to create a hard federation
with a single governing body and
a Trust arrangement with Goldsmiths, University of London**

Introduction

The governing bodies of Addey and Stanhope, Crossways and Deptford Green schools want to work more closely together so they can improve their current success in raising students' achievements, and also maintain a fully comprehensive intake. Goldsmiths, University of London, has been invited to explore with the schools how, together, the four organisations might help young people locally and contribute still more to the social and economic regeneration of the communities around Deptford and New Cross. Lewisham Council is supporting those conversations and the proposal which has emerged.

This document summarises the proposal and the reasons behind it, tells you where to find a fuller description of the proposal and invites your comments to be submitted by July 20th 2009.

In addition, a drop-in event, open to the public, to describe and discuss the proposal will be held at Goldsmiths, University of London on **Monday June 29th** from 3.00 p.m. until 8.00 pm in the Great Hall, Richard Hoggart Building. Travel directions are at <http://www.gold.ac.uk/find-us/>

Following this consultation, the governing bodies of the three schools will reflect on the responses and decide in September whether to undertake a statutory consultation. The final decision rests with the governing bodies of the three schools and Goldsmiths, none of whom can make final, binding decisions until after the second consultation.

If the four partners agree to go ahead, the proposal can be implemented in April 2010.

The Proposal is that a new Goldsmiths Education Partnership is formed with:

- i. The three schools entering into a joint Trust arrangement with Goldsmiths, University of London. The Trust would be an Incorporated Charity with educational purposes, (as is currently the case for Addey and Stanhope School). Goldsmiths would play a leading role and the Trust would be called the 'Goldsmiths Education Partnership'. The Trust may include an additional partner from the public or private sector able to make a complementary contribution to the Trust.**
- ii. The three schools creating a federation, each school with its own headteacher. The federation would have a single governing body responsible for ensuring sustained, strategic collaboration across the three schools. The Goldsmiths Education Partnership would nominate a majority of the governors on the single governing body which would also have parental and community representatives.**

The reasons

The following pages contain a summary of the need for change and why the proposal will improve outcomes. The proposal will be available from 8th June at www.lewisham.gov.uk or by contacting the schools directly.

If you want to read or comment on that more detailed version of the proposal, you can find it on-line on the above Lewisham Council website, on the schools' websites, or by contacting the office at any of the three schools and asking for the full consultation document. Details of the website and other contact details are provided on page 4 of this document.

The need to change

The governors and head teachers of the three schools recognise that their students already benefit from a degree of collaboration and co-operation. Over the next ten years and more, the demand for schools to work together will increase considerably. The curriculum in secondary schools is becoming more personalised and complex, and young people and their families want increased choice in what they study. The preparation of young people aged 14 to 19 for education, employment or training requires a broad range of study, sometimes in more than one place. The quality of teaching and leadership in any school is obviously helped if sharing experience with colleagues in other places is encouraged and relatively easy. Efficient use of the available budgets can benefit from sharing across sites.

Working closely together in this way, supported by a Trust, will enable the schools to increase further the confidence parents place in them to care for and educate their children. Over-subscribed schools ensure balanced, comprehensive intakes, which the Trust will be dedicated to promote.

All of this is made easier and more likely to last if it does not depend so much, as it does now, on the goodwill, professional commitment and effort of particular individuals. For that reason, the three schools are thinking about a federation which will allow them to continue as distinct, separate organisations in an alliance where the single governing body can have an overview and support the necessary sharing and development.

At the same time, the schools recognise that a close association with Goldsmiths, a very large provider of education in its own right, a major local employer and an organisation with a prestigious reputation could add further value to their federation by contributing expertise and support in varied forms across the breadth of subject areas it offers. The proposal to create a Trust reflects their ambition to work closely together, and ensure that they are playing their full role in building aspiration and achievement in their communities.

The Proposal will mean:

- Students at the three schools will be offered an educational experience which is even richer, more varied and of higher quality than at present. The Trust will secure raised expectations amongst young people and their families so that the locality will be renowned for innovation and excellence in learning, and be amongst the best places in the world for children and young people to grow up.
- The Trust will offer more opportunities for research and development across the Secondary and Higher Education sectors. Goldsmiths track record in the Arts and Cultural Studies, Computing, Media and Communications, Education and Teacher Training, Languages and other areas will enable staff at both the University and the schools to engage with one another at the cutting edge of new developments, with the resultant benefits to young people's learning.

- The schools will be able to collaborate and to support one another more easily and to greater effect than is the case within the existing “soft” arrangements, and to expand the range of collaboration with Goldsmiths.
- Goldsmiths will have a particular commitment to support these three schools and their local communities, an important expansion of its long standing partnerships with schools across Lewisham which it will continue to maintain and develop.
- The focus on a single governing body supported by the Trust will create the capacity for a more collegiate and less competitive approach to raising educational standards and other outcomes for young people.
- Staff will be offered more support for their work and enhanced professional development opportunities. The federation will be an appealing and exciting place to work, with a sustainable and improving future.
- The three schools will remain state comprehensive schools, funded just like others in Lewisham (they will not be Academies), working closely with other Lewisham schools and colleges, especially within the Lewisham 14-19 Partnership.
- The best features and particular traditions of each of the three schools will continue, with each offering outstanding provision in its particular areas of responsibility and expertise.
- Economies of scale will be created by pooling some of the most expensive curricular costs and releasing resources to enhance other aspects of teaching and learning.
- Greater aspiration and achievement will be promoted in the local communities and the schools by their being partnered with one of the country’s top universities. Together with the single governing body, the Trust will become a hub for learning, social cohesion and enterprise for the local community.

Some frequently asked questions:

- *Will the schools become selective?*
The admissions criteria for the three schools will not change at all. They will still use area-wide banding and, in common with other schools in Lewisham, distance-to-school in their admissions criteria. They will continue to follow the National Schools Admissions Code and Lewisham’s related guidance, and will be accountable to Lewisham’s Admissions Forum. They will continue to adhere to Lewisham’s policy on exclusions and its hard-to-place pupils protocol.
- *Who makes sure that standards are maintained?*
Lewisham will retain its responsibility to check progress at the schools and to intervene if necessary. Ofsted must still inspect them. The governing body, the Goldsmiths Education Partnership and the staff will have the responsibility to continue to work to guarantee high standards.
- *Is the Goldsmiths Education Partnership the governing body?*
No, it is not. It will support the federation governors, nominate a majority of them and provide additional capacity, experience and energy. Its commitment to supporting the governing body will be the key to its success.
- *Will Goldsmiths, University of London, be able to take over the schools’ land?*
No, it will not and could not even if it ever wanted to. The Goldsmiths Education Partnership will hold the land and property of the three schools ‘in trust’, which means that it can only be used for the three schools and will revert back to them or to the Local Authority if they leave or the Trust dissolves.
- *Who will decide whether another partner is included in the Trust?*
The schools and Goldsmiths think there would be additional value in an additional partner from the public or private sector able to make a complementary contribution to

the Trust. If a suitable partner, acceptable to all the four proposed partners, is identified, the name will be included in the statutory consultation in the autumn term.

- *Will parents have a voice in the new arrangement?*
There must be parent representatives on the governing body. In addition, each school will be legally required to set up a Parent Council which governors must consult so that more parents can be involved than would usually sit on the governing bodies. The views of parents are being sought as part of this consultation.
- *Who is actually running these schools?*
The federated governing body will be responsible for oversight of the curriculum of the three schools, which must meet the requirements of the National Curriculum. It will also employ the staff, and will have day to day responsibility for the buildings. The headteachers and their teams will have the same responsibilities as others in similar state schools across Lewisham. The Local Authority retains the responsibility to support and challenge the schools and intervene as necessary.
- *Will staff be at risk in any way?*
No. The Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE) will apply, which means that all school staff will have the opportunity to transfer to employment by the new governing body on exactly the same terms and conditions as they now enjoy. The governing body must employ staff on the national terms and conditions of employment so there is no increased risk in that regard. Opportunities for career development will be better than at present.
- *Will there be a negative effect on other local schools?*
The Local Authority, the three schools and Goldsmiths have considered this and cannot think of any reason why there should be. They will continue their good links with all the local primary schools. The schools will continue to play their role as part of the 'family' of secondary schools in Lewisham, and Goldsmiths will continue to work with other schools in the area as it has done in the past. The innovation that will be generated through the Goldsmiths Education Partnership will also be beneficial to other schools as good practice is disseminated and applied.

For a copy of the full proposal please contact the office at any of the three schools or any of the websites listed below:

Addey and Stanhope School. 472 New Cross Road, London SE14 6TJ.
Email: info@as.lewisham.sch.uk Tel: 020 8305 6100
Website: www.as.lewisham.sch.uk

Crossways Academy, Sprules Road, London, SE4 2NL.
Email: info@crossways.ac.uk Tel: 0845 202 1111
Website: www.crossways.ac.uk

Deptford Green School, Amersham Vale, London SE14 6LQ
Email: info@deptfordgreen.lewisham.sch.uk Tel: 020 8691 3236
Website www.deptfordgreen.lewisham.sch.uk

Goldsmiths, University of London: website www.gold.ac.uk

Lewisham Council: website www.lewisham.gov.uk

RESPONSE FORM: the Goldsmiths Education Partnership

This form is to help you to give us your views about the idea of three schools, Addey and Stanhope, Deptford Green and Crossways creating a federation with a single governing body and a Trust arrangement with Goldsmiths, University of London. Your views will be taken into account in deciding whether to work further on this idea to form a proposal for statutory consultation in the autumn 2009.

You must return this completed form on or before July 20th 2009, when the consultation will close.

In addition, a drop-in event, open to the public, to describe and discuss the proposal, will be held Goldsmiths, University of London on Monday June 29th from 3.00 p.m. until 8.00 pm in the Great Hall, Richard Hoggart Building.
Travel directions are at <http://www.gold.ac.uk/find-us/>

Responses will be analysed by the Innovation Unit, an independent organisation which has been commissioned to help with the consultation.

By hand to:	The office at any of the schools in an envelope marked 'consultation' or
By post to:	Consult, The Innovation Unit, 28-30 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0TT
By email to:	consult@innovation-unit.co.uk

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

I am representing an organisation in making this response YES
[please tick and specify]

NAME OF ORGANISATION

OR

I am making this response in my private capacity [Please tick] YES

How would you best describe yourself in relation to this consultation? [please tick **ONE**]

Member of staff, proposed Trust school	Member of other school staff
School governor, proposed Trust school	Other school governor
Parent/carer of child, proposed Trust school	Other parent/carer
Pupil/student, proposed Trust school	Other pupil/student
Member of staff, Goldsmiths	Member of local community
Student, Goldsmiths	Other [Please specify]

Thank you for taking the time to comment.

Please could you provide us with some information about yourself?

Q1 Are you male or female?

Male Female

Q2 To which of these groups do you consider you belong? Please tick one box

White - British	
White - Irish	
Any other White background, <i>please state:</i>	
Mixed - White & Black African	
Mixed - White & Black Caribbean	
Mixed - White & Asian	
Any other Mixed background, <i>please state:</i>	
Asian or Asian British – Indian	
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	
Any other Asian background, <i>please state:</i>	
Black or Black British - Caribbean	
Black or Black British - African	
Any other Black background, <i>please state:</i>	
Chinese	
Other ethnic group, <i>please state</i>	

Data Protection Act 1998

The data collected will be subject to the Data Protection Act 1998. This information will be held on computer and will remain confidential. It will not identify you and it will not be disclosed to any third parties without your consent. The data will be processed for statistical purposes only and will only be used in a form that does not allow you or any member of your household to be identified. By returning a completed questionnaire you are giving your explicit consent for the data collected about you to be recorded and used for the purposes above. Under the Data Protection Act, you have the right to a copy of the data held about you by the London Borough of Lewisham.

RESPONSE FORM: the Goldsmiths Education Partnership

Please give us your comments on any aspect of the ideas in this paper. In particular, let us know the reasons for your views.

We would also be very interested in whether you think the ideas in the paper might be developed to improve the outcomes for young people and families in the locality, and if so how.

We are also interested in your ideas about what kind of organisation might make a suitable Trust partner, complementary to Goldsmiths.

Continued...

