

Dear Parent/Carer,

At a meeting of the school's Governing Body on 7th November 2013 it was decided to:

- Change school category from Community to Foundation;
- Establish a Trust named The Calder Learning Trust, which is a co-operative membership trust; with effect from 1st February 2014.

This is in line with the consultation and published statutory proposal. The decision was taken, as the Governing Body believe the Trust will raise standards through the creation of a platform for on-going improvement. The resources and expertise brought to the Trust by the partners will strengthen strategic leadership, increase support and challenge and consolidate effective monitoring, thereby promoting improvement in outcomes for students.

The mutual co-operative nature of the membership trust with its high levels of stakeholder involvement and accountability will greatly assist in further raising the profile of education and lead to enhanced community cohesion.

This decision followed a wide consultation process during which all relevant parties were consulted and consultation meetings were held for pupils, staff, parents and the general public and unions and trade associations were consulted. Statutory guidance was followed and the views of those consulted were considered by the Governing Body prior to the required Statutory Proposal being published. All representations made in response to the Statutory Proposal were considered prior to the Governing Body deciding to proceed to implementation.

Key aims for our Trust are to:

- Raise standards of achievement at all levels
- Ensure consistently high expectations in our school: amongst pupils, teachers, parents and carers.
- Enable all pupils to benefit from high quality teaching and learning;
- Work effectively with parents/carers, professionals and the wider community to promote health and well-being, creating the right conditions for students to thrive;
- Make efficient use of all resources available to us and thereby maximise the benefits for pupils;
- Work with external partners to widen the range of opportunities available to our workforce and our young people;
- Make our school improvement strategy more sustainable by raising the profile of education across our community – and in so doing to further raise aspirations by more effectively engaging stakeholders, especially parents, via the Trust's co-operative membership mechanisms:
- Improve social cohesion within our community by strengthening our commitment to co-operative values, including respect, social justice, fairness and democracy.

As a co-operative trust a Stakeholder Forum representing the various constituencies of membership shall be developed (further details will be provided in the near future). This Forum will represent the membership and hold the Trust to account. It shall also appoint Trustees to the Trust Board.

The school will continue to be run and managed by the Governing Body as before with the additional benefit of Trust nominated Governors and our Trust partners to assist us in our future developments.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Buckley

**Chair of Governors,
Calder High School**