



13<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Dear Parents

As you will have read in the news recently the new government is intending to make considerable changes to the academies programme in this country. As a school judged as Outstanding we have been invited to be among the first swathe of schools to claim this new form of academy status. Our Governors and I are inclined to accept this proposal with a January 2011 start.

Academy status will mean that we will have increased freedoms and will help us to better weather the austere times which are going to be ahead. This status will give our school:

- increased funding directly from the DfE rather than via the Local Authority;
- greater choice of the services we purchase;
- increased autonomy with regard to the curriculum;
- the ability to focus our links with other schools more intensely;
- the ability to establish a Governing Body designed for and by us to guarantee and sustain our ethos for the future.

Academy status also offers other freedoms which we currently have as a Foundation School.

**Please note that we will not change our name and we will retain our selective status.**

It is absolutely right that Bexley Grammar School should be in the forefront of these exciting changes which aim to see all schools converting to academy status in time. I will hold a Governors' Briefing session in the School Hall at 6.30 pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010 which I invite you to attend in order to discuss these proposals with you.

In the meantime I will speak to students about what this will mean and I would encourage you to visit [www.education.gov.uk/academies](http://www.education.gov.uk/academies) for the latest information on this proposal including a good Question and Answer section.

Yours sincerely

**Headmaster**