

## What is the time scale for the process?

**Expression of interest**  
carried out during  
the summer term



**Feasibility**  
during  
the autumn



**Implementation**  
spring and summer  
terms 2009

## When and how will I be consulted?

The Council wants to ensure that parents and all stakeholders are consulted and have the opportunity to provide their views. The sponsors are keen to meet as many of you as possible and you will be invited to attend discussion evenings and to make comments in the most convenient way for you. The formal consultation stage takes place during feasibility, which for us will be during the autumn term. No final decisions are taken until this has been completed. We will let you know details as soon as they are confirmed and provide you with further updates.

The Council will be in regular contact with you to let you know what is happening. We have also set up pages on the Council's website at [www.richmond.gov.uk/academies](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/academies) where you will be able to find updated information and, later in the process, to submit your comments.

*If you want further information please contact:*

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Phone: 020 8891 7500 Minicom number: 020 8891 7539.

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at the address below, where we can arrange a telephone interpreting service.

إذا كانت لديك صعوبة في فهم هذا المنشور، فنرجو زيارة الاستقبال في  
العنوان المعطى أدناه حيث بإمكاننا أن نرتب لخدمة ترجمة شفوية  
هاتفية.  
Arabic

اگر در فهمیدن این نشریه مشکلی دارید لطفاً به محل پذیرش  
در آدرس قید شده در زیر مراجعه نمایند تا ترتیب ترجمه  
تلفنی برایشان فراهم آورده شود:  
Farsi

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਪਰਚੇ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਹੋਸ਼ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਹੇਠਾਂ  
ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਪਤੇ ਉੱਪਰ ਰਿਸ਼ਿਪਲਨ 'ਤੇ ਆਓ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਤੇ ਕਾਰਡਬਰ  
ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਇੰਟਰਪ੍ਰੀਟਰ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ।  
Punjabi

# The academies programme

*what it means for  
you and your child*

*Update 1 - Spring 2008*



## A message from the Director of Education and Children's Services

The Council is committed to raising and maintaining standards in all of its schools. We have the best primary schools in the country and some very good secondary schools but we know that we have some way to go to ensure that all of our secondary schools meet the high standards that local people rightly expect. Some of this is due to the need for investment in our buildings so that they can deliver a new and exciting curriculum supported by high quality information and communications technology.

The academies programme offers Richmond upon Thames opportunities to improve school standards and buildings. In March, the Council and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) announced the excellent news that we had agreed preferred sponsors for three new academies in the borough.

Academies are publicly funded independent local schools. They are all-ability schools which aim to raise standards by innovative approaches to management, governance, teaching and the curriculum. The involvement of sponsors allows them to bring their skills and expertise to the academy. Academies provide a teaching and learning environment which offers a broad and balanced curriculum, focusing on one or more subject specialisms.

The schools that may become academies and their preferred sponsors are:

- Hampton Community College - Kunskapsskolan
- Whitton School - Kunskapsskolan
- Shene School - Edutrust

We are confident that by creating three new academies the opportunities and outcomes for local children and young people will improve. The DCSF will provide money to rebuild all three schools; buildings and facilities that the Council could not have funded.

The Council intends to be co-sponsor of each academy, which will mean that we will continue to play an important role in the way the academies work and the quality of education provided.

We will ensure that we produce good and timely information but I know that you will have other questions about the programme and what it means for your child. This leaflet explains the process and how you can be involved and join in our consultation. We look forward to hearing your views.

**Nick Whitfield**  
Director of Education and Children's Services

## Who are the sponsors?

**Edutrust** is an educational charity and a not-for-profit organisation established to promote educational excellence. It is in the process of opening ten academies across the country, including ones in London, Birmingham, Leeds, Gainsborough, Oldham and Sheffield. Its emphasis is on personalised learning and placing the academy at the heart of the local community, both serving it and accountable to it. It sees working with partners, including the local authority, local businesses and academic institutions, such as local universities and colleges, as key to delivering its vision. Its trustees and management have wide experience of education, including improving poor performance in schools.

**Kunskapsskolan** runs 30 secondary schools in Sweden as part of the state sector. It also emphasises personalised learning with clear weekly and yearly goals set for each pupil. It uses a mixture of one-to-one support, tutorials and lectures and will be adapting its approach to deliver the English National Curriculum. Kunskapsskolan is keen to work with local stakeholders to provide the best opportunities for pupils.

## Where are we now?

We are at the start of what is called the **expression of interest** stage. During this time, a document is written, with the help of the DCSF, setting out the sponsor's vision for each academy and how it will operate. The headteachers, staff and governors will be actively involved in this process.

## What will happen next?

We expect the expression of interest to be completed in the summer term. It will need to be formally agreed by the Council and then will be sent to ministers who will consider whether we can move to the next stage, which is called **feasibility**.

At this point, funding will be provided by the DCSF to set up an academy trust (a charitable limited company). The sponsor will appoint the governors (some of whom may be the same as the current school governors). There will also be a local authority representative, staff representative, parents' representative and the headteacher or principal (as a minimum). Work will start on planning the new buildings and how the academy will run. There will be wide consultation with parents and the wider community and we expect this to take place in the autumn term.

At the end of this stage (up to nine months) the government minister decides whether to proceed to **implementation**. Academies usually open at the start of an academic year in September, but this does not have to be the case. The earliest that the three proposed academies could open, therefore, is September 2009.