



Councillor David Gardner
Deputy Leader, Royal Borough of Greenwich

Dear Parents and Carers,

6th November 2018

Greenwich's primary schools have an excellent record and Sherington has thrived as an outstanding school rooted in the local community. Academisation is not only a trip into the unknown, it is a one-way street with no turning back. If the academy chain fails, it just gets eaten up by another unaccountable chain. If the local council falls short in its support, we can be held to account; and as a community school it is run by its head and governors, not a remote chief executive. Reasons to stay as a Community school, controlled by the Governors and Head but maintained by Royal Greenwich are:

- Greenwich has a record of success at primary level, with some of the consistently best results in England at Early Years and Foundation Stage and at the end of Key Stage 2 (In Year 6).
- Greenwich continues to sustain a first class improvement team passionately committed to supporting our schools and provide a whole range of services
- There is no pot of gold at the end of the academy rainbow. There is no additional money and capital funds are, if anything, even more difficult to access. Indeed, local authorities have more reserves and financial expertise to support schools stay in better financial health and to advise and support them in a financial crisis.
- In academy chains, 5-10% of the schools' budget is "top-sliced" to pay for central costs such as the high CEO and Director salaries. In contrast, Greenwich's equivalent de-delegation agreed by all maintained schools is just 1% of the school budget on average.
- Leigh Academy Trust does not have a good record. Its two secondary schools in Greenwich are among the worst performers and their primary record outside the Borough does not match Greenwich's performance
- Most importantly, Sherington has done well as a Greenwich school, the tide is going out on academies and there is no extra money. If Sherington feel they need more support with professional development, training, improvement etc. from RBG we are there to help. If we fail, then the school can consider other models. But if they go down the Leigh road and it doesn't work out there is no turning back to being a Community school, only to another academy chain.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor David Gardner

Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children's Services

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