



To: Parents, staff and students of The
Simon Langton Girls Grammar School

**Education and Young People's
Services**

Sessions House
County Hall
MAIDSTONE
Kent ME14 1XQ

Phone: (03000) 416384
Ask for: Patrick Leeson
Email: patrick.leeson@kent.gov.uk

1 June 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for writing to express your serious concerns regarding the current proposal for The Simon Langton Girls Grammar School to convert to become an academy and to also develop a Multi Academy Trust to include Spires Academy.

Kent County Council (KCC) has received a number of complaints which identified concerns around the voting and decision making process followed by the Governing Body of the Simon Langton Girls Grammar School in relation to its academy proposals and I wanted to take this opportunity to update you as to the current position.

KCC has already investigated one specific issue and has informed the Governing Body that one Governor was not eligible to vote at the meeting on 25 November 2015, although this did not materially affect the outcome of the votes taken at that meeting. KCC has sought further legal advice on this matter in light of a number of the complaints received, and can now confirm that there were other procedural shortcomings at the full Governing Body meeting on 25 November 2015 which breached the School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013.

Two governors with a conflict of interest did not remove themselves from the meeting at the appropriate time contrary to the Regulations and indeed voted on one of the two votes taken, which may have been contrary to the Regulations.

Consequently, it has been agreed that the Governing Body will meet again without those who have a conflict of interest being present for the parts of the meeting to which the conflict applies. Those with a conflict of interest will not be permitted to vote on matters to which the conflict applies. The Governing Body will then vote upon whether or not they wish to confirm the decisions taken at the 25 November 2015 meeting to apply for academy status and to form a Multi Academy Trust including the Spires Academy.

If the Governing Body does confirm those decisions, they will then go on to consider the outcome of the extended consultation process before making a final decision as to whether they should enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State to become an academy.

At their meeting the Governors should have available to them all written information which was originally considered on the pros and cons of the academisation process. They should also have available to them (if they affirm the 25 November 2015 votes) the responses to the extended consultation process, which they should consider before making their final decision.

Our intention has always been to see a transparent consultation process whereby all parents, staff and students have the opportunity to express their views. KCC is pleased to see that the consultation process has been extended and that the views of parents, pupils and staff will be fully considered before the Governing Body makes a final decision on whether to become an academy.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Leeson', written in a cursive style.

Patrick Leeson
Corporate Director
Education and Young People's Services