

## Consultation on Proposal of New Name

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to explain our decision to consult with you on a proposal to change the academy name, and along with this, possibly, the school emblem too.

Since the school converted to become an academy on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, I have received a number of enquiries from parents as to whether the school's name would be changing. Following on from this, I discussed the idea with SLT, before then speaking with the whole staff, in order to gather views. As there was considerable interest, I am now raising the matter with yourselves to collect your comments.

Of the suggestions from staff, the most popular alternative name was Oulton Academy, and the following points were made:

1. A change of name would be beneficial to remove the association of Royds with the historic under-performance of the school over the past twenty years, along with its previous association as a secondary modern.
2. A change of name could better represent the location in which the school is built and its community; Oulton is the area in which the school is geographically situated. An Oulton Primary School already exists, but there is no secondary school of the same name, and so Oulton Academy would seem a natural choice. Calling the school Oulton Academy would help to promote the academy as the school of choice in the local area and would also serve to celebrate the special historic interest of the area ... Oulton being a conservation area with several Grade 2 listed buildings and having been on the map since the Iron Age! Additionally, other principal buildings in the area bear the Oulton name, such as Oulton Hall and Oulton Manor Care Home.

Whilst other alternative names were suggested, such as Oulton and Rothwell Academy, or even Oulton, Rothwell, and Woodlesford Academy, these weren't as popular as they were lengthy, and this would significantly increase costs for things like signage, stationery, and uniform.

If we decide to go ahead with the idea to change the name, I would like to reassure you that this would not affect the current uniform students have. The incoming Year 7 would be the only ones asked to wear uniform with the new name/emblem and all other year groups would simply be asked to switch as and when their old uniform needed to be replaced. As such there would be no cost implication for parents in changing the name.

Details of this letter and the consultation will also be published on the school website for the next 3 weeks. You are invited to feedback your comments online via the consultation page on the website which can be accessed from the homepage. The consultation closes on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

The consultation process has been developed to ensure that views from the school community (staff, pupils, families and governors) will be taken into account, but the final decision on whether to change the name and/or emblem of our school ultimately rests with the Trust Board. Once the consultation closes, all comments will be discussed by our trustees and governors before a final decision is reached and I will then write to you again to let you know the outcome.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me through the usual school number.

Kind regards,



J. Higgins

Principal