



7th March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will know we have been working hard to secure the conversion of Heaton Manor School to become an Academy under the Gosforth Federated Academies Trust (GFA) following our Ofsted inspection. All of the key pieces of work which we mentioned in the last letter have now been completed. However, a legal issue has come up during half term which was totally unforeseen. The issue involves the PFI Company and their funders. It is complex and not part of the normal process for conversion and it is not something that we have any control or influence over. Legal representatives of Newcastle City Council and colleagues at the Regional Schools Commissioners Office (RSC) have been trying to resolve the issue or to find a way around it. Unfortunately, this has not been resolved and as a consequence, the RSC informed us, only one day before the conversion date, that as it would not be possible to complete the conversion on 1st March a new date will have to be set. That was their decision, again not something which we could influence.

Please be assured that the Trustees of GFA are still fully committed to receiving Heaton Manor into the GFA family of schools and are frustrated by this turn of events so close to the end date. The conversion will go ahead; the new date is to be determined when the full nature of the final task is better understood. GFA Trustees are also still fully committed to providing school to school support and this will continue for as long as it is required.

We will keep you informed once a new date is set.

Best wishes.

Jane Edminson *A Wareing*

Jane Edminson and Andrew Wareing
Co-Chairs of Heaton Manor GB

George Snaith
Chair of GFA Trustees