

May 2019



Dear Parent / Carer

We wanted to take this opportunity to update you on the conversion of Heaton Manor as part of the Gosforth Federated Academies Multi Academy Trust. The Trust, Council and the DFE have now agreed all of their legal documents, which were signed off on behalf of the Trust by George Snaith as Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Heaton Manor is one of six schools in the city that is part of a 25 year PFI contract arrangement. The academy conversion of a PFI school requires negotiation of a number of legal documents between all of the various partners. The required documents as part of that process have not yet been signed off by the PFI company and their funders, which is the only thing delaying conversion. All parties are pressing for this final stage to happen as soon as possible.

The Trustees of GFA remain committed to the conversion of Heaton Manor to become an academy as part of the GFA Multi Academy Trust and to the school to school support which is currently in place. They and the Governors of Heaton Manor are frustrated by the time this has taken and appreciate the uncertainty this causes for parents and staff. We will all continue to work on this and hopefully a resolution can be reached in the near future. We will keep everyone informed of any developments.

The new name of Heaton Manor will be Jesmond Park Academy and it will adopt this new name as soon as it joins the MAT, which we hope will be in the next few weeks.

The Trustees of Gosforth Federated Academies and Governors of Heaton Manor think that it is better to start the rebranding process now, as it is at this time of year that uniform stocks need to be ordered from our suppliers and parents start to think about these purchases.

To mark the transition to being Jesmond Park Academy, we would like all main school students to wear a new uniform in September 2019. To help facilitate this, we are committed to making a one off gift of one set of 'badged' uniform items for every main school student, including the incoming Year 7s. This will include a sweatshirt, a polo shirt, a school coat, micro fleece and set of PE kit. Parents will continue to be responsible for purchasing trousers, skirts, shoes, trainers and so on and these items will remain the same style as at present. Emblematic will remain the uniform supplier and further details will follow, outlining when and how parents can place orders for their free uniform items. You'll also see things happening to signage and the website over the coming months.

We will let you know as soon as Emblematic is in a position to start to supply the new uniform and pupils will be shown it in their forthcoming assemblies or when our staff visit primary schools.

Yours faithfully

 *Jane Edminson*     *A Wareing*

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



**George Snaith**  
**Chair of GFA Trustees**