

THE RUGELEY ACADEMIES

Q&A Document - September 2015



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ACADEMIES**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

1. Why are Hagley Park and Fair Oak Academies proposing to merge?

To build on the significant progress that both schools have made in the four years since they joined the Creative Education Trust by creating one outstanding school that is better than the sum of its parts. The single school will be an ambitious learning environment which is operationally efficient and gives students access to enhanced academic and extra-curricular provision across the two sites.

2. When will the merger take effect?

From 1st September 2016.

3. Are students, staff and parents going to be consulted on the proposed merger?

Yes, as well as other stakeholders and supporters of the schools. We will commence the consultation process in November 2015 and report back within 2 months.

4. What will be the name of the merged school?

The name will be decided after considering the responses to the public consultation.

5. Will there be a new uniform, and if so will parents have to pay for it?

A new uniform has been introduced from September 2015. There is no intention to change the uniform and therefore for students entering the academy from September 2016, parents will be expected to pay for the uniform as normal.

6. How will both sites operate as a single school?

The single academy will comprise a lower and an upper school. Years 7-9 will be accommodated on the site currently occupied by Fair Oak; Years 10-13 will be at site which is currently occupied by Hagley Park and the Rugeley Sixth Form

7. Where will be the main entrance?

The main entrances to the current Fair Oak and Hagley Park sites will become the main entrances to the lower and upper schools.

8. What will be the merged school's annual intake of students?

The merged school's intake will be approximately 240-250 students per year group (11-16).

9. How is recruitment for September 2016 affected?

Students applying for Hagley Park and Fair Oak now for entry in September 2016 will be made aware that the merger is under consideration. Subject to the results of the consultation and approval by the government's Regional Schools Commissioner, they are likely to be admitted to the single, merged school in September 2016.



10. Will you still recruit into each year group in each school for the next academic year? i.e. Are there limits for each year group?

We have made a commitment not to increase class sizes. So, where the combined total of Hagley Park and Fair Oak falls below the target number for a year group places will be available. Otherwise a waiting list will be needed.

11. When will the merged school's curriculum be in place and when will parents be able to see it?

The curriculum will combine the best available subjects and teaching practice from Fair Oak and Hagley Park, and will be published on the website of the single school.

12. When will Year 9 students know which subject GCSE options are available in September 2016?

Current Year 9 students will have already made their decisions on their GCSE options and will follow the curriculum of their current school. Next year's Year 9 students will know which subject options are available to them at the end of the Autumn Term 2015 and, as currently is the practice in both schools, make their decisions in the Spring Term 2016. By September 2016 students at both schools will follow the same GCSE curriculum.

13. Will the size of Year 8 impact GCSE choices or range of available extra-curricular activities?

It is unlikely that the size of Year 8 will impact on the range of GCSE choices as the current GCSE options offered are standard for most schools. What will vary is the number of classes for each GCSE option. The class size will not increase but with more students we will increase the number of classes. We will continue to offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities to meet the needs of our students. We have a large number of committed staff who will be keen to offer a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities to students at all ages, whatever the size of the year group.

14. What will the new staff structure look like in the merged school across a split site?

Lessons will be timetabled carefully to distribute best teaching practice across the upper and lower schools, and ensure that staff are not required to cross between the sites unnecessarily.

15. How will the social and integration aspects be addressed for the year groups joining together in the merged school?

There are already a significant number of mixed classes and enrichment activities successfully involving both schools; these will naturally increase.

16. Will there be a joint Local Governing Body, and if so, how many parents will be represented on the group?

The Rugeley Academies have had a joint local governing body for several years. As per the Trust's governance rules, there will be two parents elected to sit on the Local Governing Body on behalf of the merged school.