

24<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you very much for attending our Target Setting Day last Friday. Over 50 Parent/Guardians came and met with their form tutor. We gave out Spring Term Targets and Reports on Progress for the Autumn Term. If you did not come, we will send these out in the post.

### **Academy status – update**

Following the consultation in November and December 2013, at its meeting on 20 January 2014 the Governing Body decided that Woodfield School will convert to academy status. We anticipate this conversion happening on 1 April 2014 or as soon as possible afterwards.

In making this decision, the Governors confirmed that there would be no change to the name of the school, to the school day or year, or to the SEN designations of the school. All current students would continue to attend exactly as they do now. All staff would continue to be employed on national and local terms and conditions exactly as they are now.

You may be aware that the national policy position of the trade unions that represent teaching and support staff is that they are opposed to academy status. Two of the teaching unions, the NUT and ATL, have conducted a ballot of their members in the school about whether they wish to take strike action in response to the conversion, citing a concern about potential changes to their terms and conditions. **The Governors have consistently stated that they will continue to employ current and future staff in accordance with the national and local terms and conditions that Woodfield is currently subject to, and as part of their decision to convert the Governors agreed to establish a legal agreement to make it far more difficult for a future Governing Body to change that decision.** We are doing far more than most academies to reassure staff on this issue. However, the ballot has shown a support for strike action and consequently there will be a strike by staff on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January**.

**I will seek to ensure that the impact on children and families is minimised and will make every effort to keep the school open. More information will follow next week.**

Mrs Lodge Patch

### **Important dates**

<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>Half term</b>
<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Residential to Lockerbroke</b>
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Last day of Spring Term.</b>

[Click here for Term Dates in 2013- 2014](#)