



ASPIRE

We endeavour to achieve and aspire to be successful

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Executive Headteacher Mr M Bowler **Headteacher** Ms F Beach

Dear Families,

I am writing to you to inform you of changes that are currently taking place at the school. Over the next few months our school, Astley Sports College is going to become an Academy. This means that it will be run by a Board of Trustees, rather than directly by the Local Authority. Students will not notice any real difference in the way that the school will be run, but one of the things we have to consider when we become an academy is whether we should make a change to the school name.

Astley used to be a Sports College and the school used to get additional money for this. The government stopped this funding 6 years ago so we need to drop this part of the name. Therefore, as a minimum we will need to change the name to either Astley High School or Astley Academy but if we are going to have to make a change, it is worth us discussing if we should change the name completely.

There are some reasons why it would make sense to keep the name Astley, for example:

- It provides continuity and the least amount of change would be needed
- People in the local community know this name already.
- Some members of the community have fond memories of being at 'Astley' and might want it to stay the same.

There are also some reasons why it would make sense to have a complete change, for example:

- Whilst the school has been known as Astley Sports College the students at the school have not always had as much exam success as we would want. The school is changing so it might be good to be known under a new name so that people can see that we are changing.
- Whilst the school has been known as Astley, the school has not always had a very good reputation in the local community. There have been significant changes in the school and the 2016 GCSE results were the best the school has ever achieved. As the school improves it is unhelpful to have a reputation that is not representative of our student's achievements.
- In the past, Astley used to be a Grammar School, that means that they used to select who passed a test to attend the school. This does not happen anymore, but because we are still called Astley there could still be this association.

If we decide to change the name we can be completely open to new ideas:

- We could have a name that is unique and really inspires students
- We could have a modern name that is better linked to life in the 21st Century
- We could pick a traditional name based on an inspirational historical figure from the area or something to do with our local community.

The consultation process is currently taking place and a decision on the school name will be finalised in the next couple of weeks.

School uniform

We understand that a key issue relating to any potential name change and rebranding relates to school uniform. Although there will be no changes in uniform for students currently attending the school there will be changes for

your child as they are new to the school. There is no intention of changing the actual clothing in terms of blazer, jumper etc. but there will be changes to the uniform colours. Uniform stockists are aware of this and the school will be sending you an updated letter in the next couple of weeks making it clear what uniform you need to purchase for your child who is starting the school in September 2017.

We have included with this letter a copy of our most recent newsletter and a contact form, would you please return the completed contact form to school as soon as possible as we also like to keep in touch with parents via text and emails.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Fay Beach

Headteacher