



ASPIRE

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Executive Headteacher Mr M Bowler Headteacher Ms F Beach

Dear Families,

Consultation on changing the school name

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.
- 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.

Proposal

We are now going to have a short consultation period with students and their families, staff and the wider school community. We would encourage you to offer your views about this proposal and to make suggestions of names for consideration, if you would like. Views and suggestions submitted by email to: consultation@astley.tameside.sch.uk will all be considered. The closing date for all views to be submitted is Tuesday 18th April 2017.

We understand that a key issue relating to any potential name change and rebranding relates to school uniform. We can assure you that any uniform changes that come out of this would be managed in a very staged and considered way. We will not expect different uniforms to be purchased for current students in September 2017, no matter what is decided about the name of the school.

We very much look forward to hearing your views.

Yours faithfully,

Fay Beach
Headteacher

Jane Barker
Chair of Governing Body