



Dear Parent/Carer

### **BEMROSE COMMUNITY SCHOOL – FOUNDATION STATUS**

Recently, the City Council announced a proposal for Bemrose Community School to become an Academy. The school's governing body is now consulting on becoming a Foundation School, in the hope of defeating our plans for an Academy.

This letter:

- explains why we believe students at Bemrose will benefit from Academy status and
- asks you to support the Academy proposal .

The Council has always supported the work of Bemrose and helped its development - the hard work of school staff, governors and students has paid off in recent years. But we want to build on this success and believe that **Academy status** provides the best way to do this. This would be in partnership with Derby College, which is highly successful and shares our ambitions for the city.

The Government also expects local authorities to take action, including proposing Trusts or Academies, in schools where fewer than 30% of students are gaining five higher grade GCSEs, including English and maths. This is the case at Bemrose.

The current arrangements for Academies suggest that the following would be available to help bring further improvement:

- the support and expertise of the college, providing more resources and opportunities to explore new ideas for better learning and achievement
- the support of external partners, giving greater opportunities such as mentoring for students
- additional funding to establish the Academy
- an endowment fund to support students
- a sixth form, with a wider range of courses for students than Bemrose can currently offer.

We would work out the details of all of these in a partnership between the Council, College and school.

**Foundation status** alone will simply give more responsibility to the governors, but bring no additional benefits. It will still be possible for the Council to carry through an Academy proposal but that will be delayed. Once the school became an Academy, Foundation status would cease. Foundation status may also lead to the school becoming a Trust, with some engagement of external partners.

As a Foundation school Bemrose will become more independent, but as an Academy we are aiming for a unique partnership between school, college and Council. In short, we urge you to support further work between Bemrose Community School, Derby College and the Council to develop the detail of an **Academy** proposal with the aim of more opportunities and higher achievement for students.

**Please make your views known directly to the Bemrose Governing Body.** We would also be pleased to receive your comments.

Yours faithfully

**Councillor Sara Bolton**  
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

**Andrew Flack**  
Corporate Director for Children and Young People