Specialist Schools and Academies Trust
THE SCHOOLS NETWORK™

The Academies Programme - an evolving movement

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ACADEMIES arts colleges Business & Enterprise Engineering humanities LANGUAGE COLLEGES Maths & Computing music colleges Science SEN SPECIALIST SCHOOLS SPORTS COLLEGES TECHNOLOGY COLLEGES APPLIED LEARNING

Academies – a brief history?

- City Technology Colleges (Education Reform Act 1988)

- New Labour academies – City academies (Learning and Skills Act 2000)

- Coalition academies – ‘ ...ending a culture where politicians and bureaucrats tell schools what to do and so put teachers and heads in the driving seat...freedoms to liberate from some of the [past] bureaucracy’

What ***are academies***?

- independent state schools
- traditional model (transformational academies) and new model
- ability to set pay and conditions for staff
- freedom from following the National Curriculum
- ability to change the lengths of terms and school days

What *is* an academy now?

- Transformational / traditional / coerced / old / mark 1
- Applicant / converter / volunteer / new / mark 2
- UTCs
- Studio Schools
- New academies (free schools)

- One basket of all varieties?
- Clear distinction, based on context?

The key elements of the original academies programme

- its **moral purpose**
- the **involvement of a sponsor**
- the opportunity to make a **new start**
- **innovative approaches**
- **accountability**

What is a transformational academy?

- These academies, usually in areas of high deprivation, and usually replacing schools which have been deemed unsuccessful, are independent, state-funded schools.

- Accountable to Secretary of State

- Raising standards/ transforming learning
- Partnerships/ sponsors
- Community impact

The growth of the programme

September 2002	3
September 2003	12
September 2004	17
September 2005	27
September 2006	47
September 2007	83
September 2008	133
September 2009	203
September 2010	267 + 52

Is the Academies Programme working (2010)?

- **Evidence points to a positive impact in more than headline examination results:**
- Raising aspirations
- Social mobility
- Widening participation
- Use non-traditional methodologies
- Address the lack of basic skills
- Improved behaviour
- Engage parents and other community
- Improved attendance

Is the Academies Programme working (2010)?

Early indications suggest that . . .

- academies taking GCSEs in both 2009 and 2010 have seen their GCSE results rise by a fifth – 3x the national average.
- 67% of early academies rated outstanding or good for overall effectiveness
- Improved attendance

New Style Academies

- Academies Act 2010
- New model (applicant academies)
- University Technical Colleges (UTCs)
- Studio Schools
- New academies (free schools)

Transformational or converter?

Transformational

- No choice
- Low results
- Closure of predecessor school
- Sponsor(s)
- Project management company
- Feasibility and implementation phases
- Pre-opening Ofsted
- Section 8 Inspection: Term 5
- Egg sign-off
- Kick start funding
- Principal recruitment
- Education adviser (DfE)/ALO(YPLA)/SIP
- New build...?

Applicant

- HT and GB choice
- Outstanding Ofsted (to be extended)
- Fast track, pre-approval
- No closure; change of status
- No sponsor(s) required
- No capital plans
- YPLA monitoring
- No financial disadvantage
- No principal recruitment
- Named adviser (DfE)/ALO(YPLA)

What are University Technical Colleges?

- 14-19 schools
- Sponsored by a university
- Involvement of business and industry
- Technical courses plus core subjects

Freedoms and responsibilities – in reality

Structures:

- Governing body structures
- Staffing and TUPE
- Terms and years

Partnerships and networks

Performance

Implications for non-academies?

- Other models available
- Budget
- Admissions
- Support from LA
- Perceptions and practice
- Results

2 final thoughts

Buildings and learning

Catalyst for change