



A Mathematics and Languages School, Barking Road, London E16 4DD **Headteacher:** Charlotte Robinson
Telephone: 020 7540 5620 **Fax:** 020 7511 5924 **Email:** info@rokeby.newham.sch.uk **Web:** www.rokeby.newham.sch.uk

Dear Parent and Carers

I write to you on behalf of the Governing Body of Rokeby School to inform you of a change in the status of the School.

On 1 February 2019, Rokeby changed from being a "Community Secondary School¹" to a Foundation Trust School², within a pre-existing Foundation Trust called Newham Community Schools Trust ("NCST"). NCST consists of Rokeby School, Lister Community School and Sarah Bonnell School. More information can be found on the NCST website: <http://www.newhamcommunityschoolstrust.org/>.

Background

Back in 2015, Rokeby, Lister and Sarah Bonnell embarked on a journey to become partners within a group of schools dedicated to school improvement and to formalise the good working relationship that had already been established between the three schools. All three schools have a shared commitment to working together to provide a world-class education for young people in Newham and to develop as centres of excellence for teaching and learning. The schools are highly ambitious for all their students and keen to develop a passion for learning and have sought to do this within calm, safe, learning environments, where all members of the community treat each other with kindness, tolerance and respect.

NCST was created with the following founding principles:

- maintain each of the schools' comprehensive values, inclusive practices and non-selective admissions policies;
- ensure that the governance of the trust will continue to reflect the schools' close links with the local community; and
- recognise and value the contribution of staff to the success of the Trust, and in particular doing so through: (i) formally recognising the Trade Unions that support staff in the schools; and (ii) securing for all staff terms and conditions which at least match and in some important respects (such as the London Living Wage) improve on those prevailing in Local Authority maintained schools.

Next steps

You do not need to do anything. You will not notice any fundamental difference in how Rokeby is run and operated on a day to day basis. However, we felt it is important for parents and Carers to be aware of the school's change in status. Rokeby will continue to

¹ A community school in [England and Wales](#) is a type of state-funded school in which the [local education authority](#) employs the school's staff, is responsible for the school's admissions and owns the school's estate

² In [England](#) and [Wales](#), a foundation school is a state-funded school in which the [governing body](#) has greater freedom in the running of the school than in [community schools](#). A foundation school is sometimes also called a trust school, and has a [foundation](#) or [trust](#) that owns the land on which the school is based.





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be "maintained" by Newham. The Governing Body of Rokeby School will continue exercise responsibility over the school. It will also employ the staff and has responsibility for admissions to the school.

We are very pleased that we have been able to achieve this part of the overall goal we set ourselves back in 2015 and to be able to share this good news with you.

Yours sincerely,

John Ainsworth MBE
Chair, The Governing Body of Rokeby School

