

## Granville Sports College in Woodville gains academy status after joining the de Ferrers Trust

- By [rhea turner](#) | Posted: 09:11, 8 SEP 2017

A South Derbyshire school is the latest to gain academy status after officially joining the de Ferrers Trust.



Staff at Granville Sports College in Burton Road, Woodville said they were delighted to have made the change after a strong improvement over the last two years saw the school's best ever examination results with 69 per cent of pupils achieving a grade 4 or better in English and maths.

Jo Kingswood, Granville principal, said the school, which has 634 pupils and its staff were delighted to have become an academy. She said: "We have considered very carefully over the past 18 months how to continue our improvement journey and ensure our students get the best possible educational opportunities and provision.

"We undertook a lengthy period of consultation with staff, parents and the governing board and having already started working with de Ferrers on an informal basis, the prospect of formally joining The de Ferrers Trust is a fantastic opportunity for us."

Mrs Kingswood said the school decided to join the de Ferrers Trust because it offered a supportive and collaborative local partnership "with a shared vision and ethos".

She said: "The achievement of our students is at the heart of all we do at Granville and we aspire to excellence in all areas. We know that working with the various schools in the Trust will enable us to share expertise, develop our capacity to deliver high quality professional development for our staff and challenge our practice to enable us to deliver the best possible outcomes."

David Gaskin, chairman of the school's governing board said they were extremely pleased to have joined the de Ferrers Trust. He said: "After spending many hours researching our options and looking for the best way to continue to move Granville forward, we are confident that working as part of the trust will be in the best interest of the students, staff and all those involved with the School.

"We believe that working within the trust will provide more opportunities for both the students and staff along with increased support, sharing of resources and economies of scale. I am personally both positive and excited to be starting the next school year as Granville Academy and have high hopes for its future."

Steve Allen, chief executive of the de Ferrers Trust said it has been an "absolute pleasure" working with Granville over the last few months. He said: "The students, staff and governors are simply outstanding and I have no doubt that by working even more closely we will ensure that every child has an exciting and rewarding education. Numerous plans are already under way to further enhance the great experiences the children already receive. We are crystal clear that together we can achieve more."

Granville will be the sixth school to join the trust, joining The Pingle Academy, de Ferrers Academy, Horninglow Primary, Eton Park Junior and Lansdowne.

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