

6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

You may be aware that the Local Authority has secured plans to build a new primary school (with a nursery) in South-West Shrewsbury (Bowbrook) in the next eighteen months. The school will initially be a one form, leading to two form, entry with a nursery. I am delighted to announce that **The 3-18 Education Trust is to be proposed as the sponsor to run this school.**

Over the first six weeks of this term we put together a detailed (circa 30,000 words) submission which covered our vision and education plan for this brand new school. A number of other Trusts applied for this 'competition' (for that is what it was referred to) and we were therefore very pleased to be short-listed for the interview with the Local Authority; about a week after the interview they contacted me to confirm that we are to be their recommended sponsor.

I use the term 'recommended' deliberately. Cabinet officials at the Local Authority will receive this recommendation for their approval today. If they vote favourably the second level of consideration will be at the Regional School Commissioner's Headteacher Board (that will be asked to approve this on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education) on December 17th. This latter group of Heads will also receive our application for William Brookes School to transfer to our Trust. So we are hopeful of good news for both of these projects.

The primary school is scheduled to open in September 2022, and will be built alongside a brand new Special School. The disappointing news is that we also applied for this Special School, but have not been short-listed – this is a real shame because we felt that we had established a vision for inclusion in our Trust, and remain strongly wedded to the principle of inclusion as a defining dimension of our work. Our Trust is named through stating the age range we want to work with i.e. 3-18 and the culture of inclusion is therefore central to our work. However, the joint panel of the Department of Education and Local Authority felt another Trust would be better suited than ours and I expect them to announce the decision on the sponsor for the Special School early next term.

The Trust's growth strategy identified the next stage of our development as bringing a primary school into the Trust and this is a unique way of achieving this. We believe it is a very long time since a new school was commissioned in Shropshire which adds to (rather than replaces) capacity, and it is therefore a privilege and an honour to be invited to do this. In sharing this news I wish to pay particular tribute to the main contributors to the bid - Claire Jones (Headteacher of Coleham School) and Julie Faulkes (Assistant Headteacher, St Martins) who put the education plan together for 4-11 and the nursery, as well as Duncan Wright for his financial planning.

Yours sincerely



M J Barratt  
CEO