



GREENWOOD ACADEMIES TRUST

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EA to the Chief Executive: Nikki Cameron-Williams

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17th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Consultation on our proposal to develop a satellite Post-16 provision for Purple Oaks Academy

The proposal

Purple Oaks Academy currently has a planned number of 100 students who are all taught within the Purple Oaks Academy building, Whiston Road, Kingsthorpe, Northampton. There are now 118 students on roll at the academy and therefore the current physical space is not sufficient to meet the needs of all students as well as we would like. This proposal aims to increase the physical capacity of Purple Oaks Academy by developing the vacant space in Green Oaks Academy into a new Post 16 satellite site.

Background to the proposal

Purple Oaks Academy was established on 1 September 2017, as a special academy funded through the Free School programme. The academy has quickly grown from the opening 36 students and exceeded its planned number of 100 within 5 years of opening due to the high demand for specialist places. The demand for specialist places remains an ongoing pressure.

The academy currently has 118 students on roll in a building that was planned for 100. These additional students have meant that spaces within the academy are being used differently than their intended purposes and inevitably means that there are spaces that are 'busier' than we would like for our pupils.

The proposed provision has been developed in partnership with the Local Authority and we believe this is an exciting opportunity to develop a new, dedicated learning space designed specifically for Purple Oaks' Post 16 students. It will mean that spaces within

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Purple Oaks Academy can return to their intended purposes, such as for Sensory Circuits and life skills. Returning to the planned number of students within the building will help with reducing noise and congestion which is important in supporting students to manage their sensory needs. The proposed design will have a capacity for 20 Post 16 students and will be funded by West Northamptonshire Council.

The proposed area for development at Green Oaks Academy is the vacant part of the building that was used as a Designated Specialist Provision prior to the opening of Purple Oaks Academy, indeed was where Purple Oaks was located initially until its building was ready. It will have no impact on children or staff in Green Oaks Academy. The proposed design is an entirely contained satellite site, with a separate entrance to Green Oaks' building, and with fencing around so there will be no mixing of children from the two academies. Utilising the empty area in Green Oaks Academy is a cost-effective way of providing the much needed additional space and places, and is also expected to benefit Green Oaks by making its running costs more efficient.

There will be no change to the leadership and staffing of the Post 16 provision, which will remain a Post 16 provision of Purple Oaks Academy, operated by Greenwood Academies Trust.

The proposal being consulted on is that from **15th April 2024**:

- I. The physical size of Purple Oaks will be extended to accommodate existing pupil numbers through a developed satellite provision for Post 16 students on the current Green Oaks Primary Academy site.
- II. The planned number of Purple Oaks Academy is increased to 120 to increase places and accurately reflect the increased physical capacity of the academy.

I am writing to inform you that we are starting the consultation of this proposal and are keen to hear your views. The consultation will run from 21st November 2023 – 21st December 2023.

How to give your views

Your views are very important to us and you are therefore invited to a parents/carers and community consultation event on Monday 27th November at Purple Oaks Academy starting at 4.00pm. At this event you will be able to hear more about the proposal, let us know your views and raise any questions you may have.

Further information about the proposal is available on the Purple Oaks Academy website. If you are unable to attend the consultation event and wish to submit your views please email consultation@greenwoodacademies.org by 5pm on 20th December 2023

Decision-making following consultation

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Following the consultation period, Greenwood Academies Trust's Board of Trustees will review the representations made by parents, carers and other relevant stakeholders. If the Trust Board decides to proceed with the proposal following this review, the decision will then be subject to final approval by the Secretary of State for Education.

We will let parents/carers and other stakeholders know as soon as possible after the consultation has closed whether the proposal will be taken forward.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Norrie', written in a cursive style.

Wayne Norrie
Chief Executive

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