



Two Bridges Academy – Co-located on the Marlwood School Site, Alveston

Consultation Submission from Luke Hall MP
(Member of Parliament for Thornbury and Yate)

As we look to Build Back Better and recover from the Coronavirus pandemic, investing in South Gloucestershire's education is more important than ever. It is an absolute priority to deliver the very best schools for our children.

As the local MP for Thornbury and Yate, I would like to confirm my full support for the Two Bridges Academy project, which proposes to deliver a brand new SEN school for South Gloucestershire.

I am in full support of South Gloucestershire Council's bid to see a new 112 place special educational needs free school serving 2-19 year olds, which will seek to educate and support children with severe learning difficulties and autistic spectrum disorders.

The appropriate site for this new school has been identified at Marlwood School, Vattingstone Lane, Alveston, BS35 6LA, on an undeveloped part of the existing school campus.

It is important to note that this site, despite being located on the school's current land, is still in the Greenbelt. Due to the lack of alternative, viable locations, I welcome the very special circumstances case which has been made for the project, and in my capacity as the local MP, consider that the impact on the Green Belt is outweighed by the need to increase SEND provision in our community.

I am pleased that the local authority have sought a sustainable approach to these proposals, which will help to mitigate any concerns and issues regarding development in this greenbelt area. In addition, the Council have illustrated the longer-term benefits of co-location on the Marlwood School site and I am in full support of the local emphasis and reference to local history.

This project builds upon a strong focus that our area has placed on improving and increasing capacity locally to educate those with the most needs to ensure they also have the equal opportunity of a good education. South Gloucestershire has been ambitious in increasing SEND provision for all ages, and as our MP I feel that we should be proud that the Government and our Council are actively investing in SEND provision in our community.

It is vital we deliver new school places for children with special educational needs and disabilities, providing tailored support and specialist equipment.



In South Gloucestershire, the number of pupils receiving SEN support was 4,414, whilst the proportion of pupils with an EHC plan/statement has risen by 0.7% between 2016 and 2020, a change that is higher than the national average (i).

In my capacity as the local MP for Thornbury and Yate, I would be grateful for full consideration being given to this project, and would appreciate this proposal receiving the appropriate support.

Luke Hall MP

Member of Parliament for Thornbury, Yate, and the surrounding area

Appendix

(i)

Number and proportion of pupils with identified SEND					
January each year					
	Numbers			% of pupils on roll	
	Total pupils on roll	SEN Support	EHC Plan/ Statement	SEN Support	EHC Plan/ Statement
South Gloucestershire					
2016	39,598	4,324	1,227	10.9	3.1
2017	39,701	4,407	1,263	11.1	3.2
2018	39,769	4,213	1,323	10.6	3.3
2019	39,955	4,224	1,394	10.6	3.5
2020	40,313	4,414	1,528	10.9	3.8
<i>Change 2016-2020</i>	<i>+715</i>	<i>+90</i>	<i>+301</i>	<i>+0.0ppt</i>	<i>+0.7ppt</i>
England					
2016	8,559,540	991,981	236,806	11.6	2.8
2017	8,669,080	1,002,069	242,184	11.6	2.8
2018	8,735,098	1,022,537	253,679	11.7	2.9
2019	8,819,289	1,047,163	271,165	11.9	3.1
2020	8,890,345	1,079,000	294,758	12.1	3.3
<i>Change 2016-2020</i>	<i>+330,805</i>	<i>+87,019</i>	<i>+57,952</i>	<i>+0.5ppt</i>	<i>+0.5ppt</i>