



**THE LADDER
SCHOOL**

Redefining alternative provision



INSERT ADDRESS

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May 2018

Dear Stakeholder

Re; Mercian Trust - Consultation for the proposal to open a new alternative provision free school in Walsall – Ladder School

In September 2016 the Department for Education approved our application to move forward to the pre-opening phase for the opening of a new Alternative Provision free school for 13-18-year olds in Walsall.

We are now entering the next phase of this exciting journey and together alongside the 'Ladder for the Black Country' we are looking to create a new school which will prepare our students for new and exciting learning opportunities. The education offer will be varied and exposure to the world of work through the Ladder campaign will be at the forefront of our planning – the overarching aim being to engage students in their learning.

Under section 10 of the Academies Act 2010 the Trust is required to consult with stakeholders on our proposals for the new school and as a result this letter and its supporting literature outline two key areas of our consultation activity:

1. Further detail on where and how you can find out more about our proposed new free school
2. Planned events and activities to encourage feedback on our proposals, particularly with regards to whether you believe the Secretary of State should enter into a funding agreement with the Trust to open the proposed new school

As a key stakeholder in the process we would be keen to hear your views on the proposal and answer any questions you may have. All information you supply will be treated as confidential unless you volunteer your personal details and request a response to a query and/or would like a copy of our final report and findings sent to you on conclusion of the statutory consultation.

How do I find out more?

Enclosed with this letter is a consultation leaflet which shares further detail on our vision for the school, our education offer and admissions policy as well as detail on our proposed site(s) for the new school.

The leaflet also highlights two open events we are holding which you would be most welcome to attend, these are:

Thursday 7th June 2018, 4- 5pm at Walsall Studio School

Tuesday 19th June 2018, 6-7pm at Walsall Studio School

You can also log online at www.ladderschool.co.uk to find our further detail on our plans and to respond to our online questionnaire.

If you are unable to attend our meetings but would like a conversation with us then please email info@ladderschool.co.uk or call me on 01922 621951 to arrange a suitable time.

When do I need to feedback by?

Our consultation runs from 23rd May to 11th July 2018 inclusive and we hope to issue our final report and findings by no later than the September 2018.

Ongoing communications about the school will be kept up to date on our website www.ladderschool.co.uk

We look forward to hearing your views and working with you to support the development of our new school going forwards,

Yours sincerely

Mr D Parkes

Chair, Ladder School, Project Steering Group