

PRESS RELEASE

Consultation Commences for New Free School for Walsall

Today sees the consultation window open for the proposed new Ladder Free School in Walsall. Between now and 11th July 2018, the new Mercian Trust* are consulting on proposals to open a new Alternative Provision Free School for students aged 13-18 in Walsall.

The school which received approval to move forward in September 2016 will cater for 112 students (when full), aged 13-18 and will primarily meet the needs of Walsall students with the potential to serve the wider Black Country. The proposed site at St Matthews Quarter will be developed ready to move in to new facilities in the 2019/20 academic year with a temporary site at Millennium House being utilised by up to 40 students from January 2019 until the new facility is ready.

“This is an exciting time for Walsall, this school will provide a much needed option for students where their main school solution is not currently working for them. With our expert staff on hand the priority will be to support each individual student with a view they will return to mainstream education as soon as they are able”. Dan Parkes, Executive Headteacher.

The ‘Ladder for the Black Country’ campaign will support the new school during the opening phase and once open by:

- contributing to the curriculum development
- securing placements and work experience opportunities for learners
- developing the knowledge and awareness of apprenticeships within the school
- supporting staff through the provision of high quality CPD

The consultation is focussing on key areas including the proposed sites, the admissions process, key policies and our education offer. To find out more you can log on to www.ladderschool.co.uk . We are keen to hear your views about our proposals. And consultation is open now until 11th July 2018.

(ends)

NOTE to EDITOR:

*This will be an Alternative Provision free school in Walsall, originally proposed by Walsall Studio School, under the auspices of The Mercian Trust. The Mercian Trust is a new Multi Academy Trust, established by the Queen Mary’s Foundation and The Vine Trust Group, which sees two Ofsted Outstanding Selective Grammar Schools, two Comprehensive Schools and the Studio School working together to offer educational pathways for children in Walsall whatever their abilities or interests.