

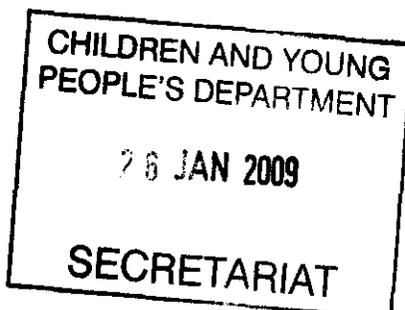


Girls' Day School Trust

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From the Chief Executive

Mr Howard Cooper
The Director of Children's Services
Hamilton Building
Conway Street
Birkenhead
Wirral
CH41 4FD.



23 January 2009

Dear Howard

Thank you for coming to see me on 12 January and for the very positive discussion on our proposed Academy at Birkenhead High School.

I am also grateful for your willingness to share your emerging thinking on 11-16 school provision across the Wirral and in particular in the Birkenhead area. I believe that our meeting helped to clarify our respective positions and to point the way towards a positive future relationship.

As I stressed at our meeting GDST's priority is to concentrate, first and foremost, on making a successful transition for Birkenhead High School from independent fee-paying to independent Academy status. Our experience at Belvedere Academy shows that this is likely to take three or more years to bed down fully from start to finish – and we are still only in the second year of the process. This transitional phase is our top priority because we owe that commitment to the current parents, pupils and staff who have stood with us in support of the academy project and to the new families who will join the Academy when it opens. We believe that their continuing confidence in the Academy is fundamental to its success and sustainability. Consolidating Birkenhead High School's changed status as a 3-19 years girls' independent Academy is therefore the priority set by our Trustees.

Nevertheless, over the longer term, we are committed to considering a range of partnerships and you have put forward strong arguments for us to consider partnership possibilities at an early stage. Indeed, Birkenhead High has already started to look at opportunities that would complement its vision and aspirations as an Academy. The school will continue to be closely linked to its sister schools in the GDST family, particularly The Belvedere Academy in Liverpool. We are also aiming to build relationships, both formal and informal, with Universities and with schools locally and nationally, and would be happy to explore opportunities with specific schools, including Prenton High, in this wider context. And of course we want to build on the Academy's proposed specialisms in mathematics and particularly in music to

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GREAT HOUGHTON PREP (Northampton) • THE HAMLETS PREP (Liverpool) • HILDEN GRANGE PREP (Tonbridge) • HOWELL'S (Cardiff)
IPSWICH • NEWCASTLE • NORTHAMPTON • NORWICH • NOTTINGHAM • OXFORD • PORTSMOUTH • SHEFFIELD • SHREWSBURY
GDST LONDON BLACKHEATH • BROMLEY • CROYDON • HEATHFIELD (Pinner) • KENSINGTON PREP • NOTTING HILL & EALING
PUTNEY • SOUTH HAMPSTEAD • STREATHAM & CLAPHAM • SUTTON • SYDENHAM • WIMBLEDON

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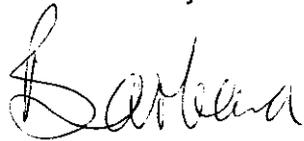


INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

collaborate with other schools and colleges. So I do not rule out a partnership agenda of the kind you set out at our meeting, but it is one that our Trustees would have to consider when they are confident that their initial strategic goals for the Academy have been achieved.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara".

Barbara Harrison