



PRESS RELEASE

12 April 2017

The Sussex Learning Trust (SLT) is delighted to announce that it has been given Department for Education approval to open a brand new primary school in Haywards Heath. The school will provide much needed additional spaces for pupils struggling to get in to the Town's existing, excellent schools and will be ideally situated in the Hurstwood Lane area to meet the anticipated housing growth in that part of town. Jonathan Morris (CEO) said "we are honoured to be given this exciting responsibility to provide a new school for the town". The Trust Chair, Jonathan Ash Edwards agreed, adding "it is essential that as the town grows, the excellent schooling currently provided for our children is enhanced and added to, and we are delighted the Department for Education has approved our plans to do just that." Mr Morris said that the school will have a broad and balanced curriculum with especial focus on STEM (that is, Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and Character education. Enrichment activities that the SLT academies are renowned for, including the expressive arts, will complement the formal curriculum. Further detail of the Trust's plans for the school will be announced after the Easter break but it is due to open in new buildings as a two form primary school in 2019.

This exciting news of the growth of SLT comes on the heels of the Governors of Bolnore Village Primary School beginning a period of consultation for the proposal that their school become an academy and join the small network of local schools that makes up SLT. Jonathan Morris said "we are really hopeful that Bolnore will join the Trust as this will give us a superb network of excellent schools ideally located to support and challenge each other so that the pupils in our schools get the very best education available. Research has shown that schools that collaborate are much more likely to develop and improve and this is particularly true when considering the much publicised financial constraints on West Sussex schools. The Trust is looking forward to welcoming Northlands Wood Primary School joining on May 1st and the Trust believes that Bolnore will be an ideal partner sharing the Trust values of each school being 'world class in all we do!'"

NOTES

From May 1st 2017 SLT will comprise Warden Park Secondary Academy, Warden Park Primary academy, Northlands Wood Primary academy.