



5th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your family keeping safe and well at this time.

Just a brief letter from me this week with news of an exciting development!

New Secondary School- Higham Lane North Academy- Approved “in Principle” for Opening in Nuneaton!

I am delighted to inform you that the Department for Education has approved “in principle” our application to open a new secondary school in Nuneaton- Higham Lane North Academy!

The letter we have received from the Department for Education states:

“The Secretary of State for Education has decided that your application should be approved “in-principle”. This means that it was assessed to be strong enough to be kept in the process for now but will not progress formally to the pre-opening stage until such time as the conditions described within this letter are met.

Your school will be approved into pre-opening on condition that:

- the S106 agreement for the proposed 9.06-acre Top Farm, Higham Lane site in Nuneaton is approved by May 2022 and
- the school can enter into a construction contract on the permanent site by May 2024 at the latest”.

We are absolutely delighted with this vote of confidence in our proposal from the Department for Education and we are fully confident that our team can take Higham Lane North Academy to its full opening, working closely with Warwickshire County Council. This is also wonderful news for the town of Nuneaton!

I have been personally informed by the Department for Education that they were extremely impressed by our application and our interview. They feel we have an exciting, ambitious vision for this new school!

The prospect of this state-of-the art school and community resource being created within our local area on the proposed site of Top Farm is so exciting for both Higham Lane School and the new community it will serve. This will help to address the urgent need for additional school places within our local area.

This new secondary school, once approved, will work closely with Higham Lane School, a high-performing 11-18 comprehensive school and a centre of excellence for initial teacher training, as part of the Higham Lane School Academy Trust. It will follow the same successful model for secondary education that has seen Higham Lane School judged as Outstanding by Ofsted in May 2019. Higham Lane North Academy will continue the Higham Lane tradition of high-quality educational provision, academic excellence, exceptional pastoral care and personal development in a school at the heart of its community.

This was a highly competitive process, with several other well-established multi-academy trusts also applying to open a new secondary school on the proposed site. We would like to thank all those involved in our application so far: our staff and governors; our consultants, Premier Advisory and everyone who gave our proposals their support, including



Higham Lane School

Helping Learners Succeed

Headteacher: Phil Kelly BA MBA NPQH

parents/carers of past, current and future students, other local schools and colleges, and local businesses and community groups.

Your children, our Higham Lane students, personify the School's values. They embody everything that is good about our school. We are enormously proud of them and we thank you sincerely for being such supportive parents and carers. I have no doubt that our wonderful students and your fantastic support as parents and carers contributed to our successful application.

We are very excited about the journey ahead for Higham Lane North Academy and we look forward to keeping everyone fully up-to-date about all future developments!

In the meantime, we won't let anything distract us from our work in ensuring Higham Lane School remains focused on being the best we can be, maintains its very high standards and continues to support all of our students, particularly at this challenging time, especially those in Year 13 and Year 11 as we await further developments about this summer's examination and grading arrangements.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Best wishes and keep safe,

P. Kelly
Headteacher