



PRESS RELEASE

A New Primary School for Croydon Families
Wednesday 12th April 2017

The *Department for Education (DFE)* today announced that the *Collegiate Free Primary School* has been approved to open in Croydon. This new primary school, to be established and run by *The Collegiate Trust*, will be developed over the coming years and will take in 60 children per year; we will announce an opening date as soon as we are able to do so.

The site of the school is yet to be finalised. The Trust originally intended to collocate the new school on site with *Riddlesdown Collegiate*, an area with need for further primary places. However, we have now agreed with the DFE to develop the school in an area of greater need for additional primary provision.

Gordon Smith, Chief Executive of *The Collegiate Trust*, commented:

“This is a tremendously exciting moment for *The Collegiate Trust* as we have the opportunity to develop, within a brand new primary school, the approaches delivering outstanding education in our secondary school at Riddlesdown Collegiate and rapid improvements in our primary school at Gossops Green. The benefits to children and families will be enormous and we shall work in partnership with the community to deliver an impressive school, which will provide exceptional education for all.”

Toby Young, Director of New Schools Network, said:

“The application process to set up a free school is extremely rigorous so it is a testament to the team at *The Collegiate Trust* that they have been approved to open. This is the largest ever cohort of free schools to be approved, a sign of this Government’s commitment to extending the benefits of the free schools policy to all parts of the country. This is a big day for free schools. With 800 either opened or approved to open, providing 400,000 places when full, free schools are now a permanent part of England’s educational landscape.”

For future updates, please see our website at www.tct-academies.org, follow our CEO on twitter @CEO_TCT, or the school itself @CollegiateFPS.

For additional information, contact the CEO at gordon.smith@tct-academies.org.

Notes

- *The Collegiate Trust* currently operates *Riddlesdown Collegiate* in Croydon and *Gossops Green Primary School* in Crawley, both of which are converter academies.
- Free schools are state funded schools that are independent of local authority control. They have the freedom to decide the length of school day and term, their curriculum, teacher pay and how they spend their budgets.
- Today’s announcement means there are 430 free schools currently open and 373 approved to open, which will create **400,000** places when full.
- 81% of free schools that have been inspected by Ofsted have been judged Good or Outstanding. They are more likely to be judged Outstanding when compared to other state schools.
- New Schools Network is an independent charity that provides support to groups wanting to set up free schools: www.newschoolsnetwork.org

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