



Turner Schools bids for new secondary school to serve Pent Valley families

++School to specialise in Modern Foreign Languages++

Turner Schools, the new academy trust that is sponsoring Morehall Academy and Martello Grove Academy is submitting a proposal to the Department for Education to set up a brand new secondary school at Pent Valley.

Led by experienced educationalist, Dr Jo Saxton, who lives locally in Kent, Turner Schools has been established with the explicit mission of raising standards through brilliant schools, giving children the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in education and life.

The proposal for the new secondary school will be submitted to the Government in September with a view to the school opening in September 2018. The school will provide local children with an ambitious, but inclusive, secondary education. It will also specialise in French and modern foreign languages.

Last year only six state educated students in Shepway studied languages beyond GCSE, representing 0.47% of the eligible pupil population, according to research by charity the New Schools Network (NSN). This compares poorly with a national figure of 2.17%. This positions Shepway in the bottom 25 local authority districts across the country.

The Turner Schools' proposal therefore provides families with an exciting new option locally. The languages specialism will help students secure the EBACC – the Government's standard measure for students who achieve a C grade or above in five GCSE subjects covering English, Maths, History or Geography, the Sciences and a language. It will also pave the way for students take up apprenticeships and employment with local businesses, where French is an advantage.

Dr Jo Saxton, CEO of Turner Schools said:

“With a number of local employers for whom the French language is important, and the fact that on a clear day we can see France from Folkestone, this represents a brilliant opportunity to secure the futures of local young people in the post Brexit world, not only through great literacy and numeracy in English, but the ability to work with French employers and beyond. With Morehall Academy only a short walk from Pent Valley we are excited about being able to provide a seamless education for children from Reception through to 18”.

Prior to setting up Turner Schools, Dr Saxton was the CEO of Future Academies, a group of four schools in London. Pimlico Academy – its secondary school in

Westminster – was graded Outstanding by Ofsted. There 60% of students were eligible for Free School Meals and in summer 2016 80% of students were entered for the five EBACC subjects. Students are also in the top 10% nationally when it comes to the progress they make between starting and leaving secondary school.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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1. Jo Saxton brings a wealth of experience leading and improving schools to her native East Kent. Until recently Jo was CEO of Future Academies, a group of 4 schools (2 Outstanding primary schools, 1 Good primary school, and 1 Outstanding secondary school) in London. Jo has been involved with the reform of the National Curriculum under the Labour, Coalition and Conservative governments. Jo's great passions are the arts, history and classics, having begun her career as a university academic.
2. The New Schools Network is an independent charity committed to achieving a good school for every child, and working with groups planning new academies (so-called free schools). Jo Saxton is a Trustee of the charity, which has offices in London and Manchester.