



**Andrew Adonis**

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*Lee Rodney,*

### **Medway Academies – Temple/Chapter proposal**

Thank you for taking the time to come to meet me on Friday with Les Wicks and Rose Collinson. The discussions we had together with Bob Marshall-Andrews QC MP have provided much needed clarity on all sides.

We considered the proposed academy in Strood and the concerns of the Chapter community and have agreed a way forward that takes account of those concerns. We agreed:

- The Chapter and Temple schools should close in 2009, to be succeeded by a co-educational academy. There will be a common management structure which will be led by the academy principal.
- The academy will admit a mixed boy/girl intake for Year 7 from 2009 onwards and they will be based in the Chapter accommodation until the new building is ready, elsewhere on the Chapter site. It is expected that the new/remodelled building will be delivered by 2011 and by 2012 at the latest; Partnerships for Schools will work with you to ensure that the building is delivered as early as possible. There may be a need for a limited amount of temporary accommodation to support the increase to 8FE from the current 6FE of Chapter School, and provision of this would be part of the academy project.
- The Temple site will continue to be used for the education of the current Temple boys until the new academy building is complete on the Chapter site. Until the building is complete the current Temple boys will be fully supported from 2009 onwards by the new academy ethos, leadership, approaches and structures.

- Partnerships will continue to be developed within the North Medway partnership for the benefit of all students at the academy, particularly in relation to the new Diploma offer.
- Medway Council's commitment to a new Vocational Centre on the Chapter site is reaffirmed. The Centre will be a key part of the new educational landscape in Strood.

I should add that I have just read the recent Ofsted report on Chapter School. I would like to congratulate the head, staff and pupils on this good report. It is essential that the new academy builds upon – and in no way undermines – the achievements of Chapter School. I believe the phased approach to the co-location of pupils, as agreed above, will ensure that this happens.

The DCSF will work with your officers to ensure that the necessary facilities are available at Chapter to make the integration process as smooth as possible. Our aim is to create an academy of outstanding excellence and I am confident that proceeding on the basis set out above will enable this to happen to the benefit of boys and girls alike in the Strood community.

*Yours ever,*

*Andrew Adonis*

**ANDREW ADONIS**