

AMANDA MILLING MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

9 October 2019

Dear To Whom It May Concern,

I write in support of John Taylor Multi-Academy Trust's Wave 14 free school application for the creation of a new through school in Rugeley.

I recently met with Mike Donoghue, Chief Executive Officer of the John Taylor Multi-Academy Trust, alongside Philip White, Cabinet Member for Learning and Employability on Staffordshire County Council and Andrew Marsden, County Commissioner for Access to Learning, to discuss the application. I am aware that the Trust already have a well-established working relationship with the County Council, with 10 primary schools and 2 secondary free schools already within the Staffordshire. One of the Trust's free schools, Kingsmead, sits within my constituency and is quickly establishing a well sought-after reputation, with pupils travelling to the school from further afield and an increase in their alumni progressing onto Russell Group Universities.

An accumulation of factors, namely the previous closure of the Hagley Park Academy and the redevelopment of the former Power Station site, has resulted in the need for additional school places. Locally, the number of school places has reduced at a time when planning proposals outline in excess of 2,000 new houses. In addition to this, sadly, many parents are choosing to educate their children elsewhere due to fears over the standard and lack of local provision. As a Member of Parliament, I am often approached regarding education provision within Rugeley and residents have been very vocal in raising their concerns surrounding the need for a new secondary school.

Mr Donoghue has outlined the Trust's intention to bid and has explained that any new free school would focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). This would greatly complement the offer at our existing school, which specialises in the Arts, and provide parents with a varied local officer. In addition to this, Mr Donoghue proposes that any new school be a 'eco-school' which again greatly fits in with the sustainable redevelopment plan for the area. I strongly support this free school application and firmly believe that a John Taylor Multi-Academy Trust free school would be warmly welcomed by the residents of Rugeley.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Milling'.

Amanda Milling MP