



5 February 2021

Dear Parents and Governors of St Edward's Academy

The Department of Education has announced this morning that our application to open a new primary school in Bridge Close, Romford, has been approved. We developed the application alongside Havering Council's calculation about new primary school places that will be needed. It will start as a one form entry primary school and grow over the years to three forms in each year group. It will have a nursery and specialist provision for children with special educational needs.

We are delighted at this news. We know that we have been given approval because of the amazing improvements that have taken place at St Edward's. St Edward's is a school with a proud reputation over the last 310 years that had a decline in the years to 2018. We had the good fortune to be approved to take the school into this trust from April 2018 and to appoint Ms Hassan and the team that work with her. We are grateful to you and your children for your part in the work over the last three years that has seen St Edward's not only regain its credibility but to have such a strong reputation that the Secretary of State for Education has approved this new school.

As a trust, we were keen to see a group of schools working together in Romford. You are aware that there is a new special school being built alongside St Edward's and with this new primary school, there will be three schools working together as part of the trust. The majority of the schools in the trust are in Suffolk. However, we have been keen to invest in working with a group of schools in Romford and are now thrilled to see this coming to fruition.

It is a privilege to work with you.

Best wishes to you and your families at this uncertain time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. J. Coulson".

Tim Coulson
Chief Executive, Unity Schools Partnership