



Sevenoaks Christian School – Update January 2012

If you have been following the proposal to create a Christian Free School in Sevenoaks then you'll know that the plan is to open an 11 to 18 non-selective school for boys and girls in September 2013, ideally on the site of the old Wildernesse School. The team that is working on this, under the chairmanship of Revd Chris Smith of Chevening, reports that excellent progress is being made. Hundreds of signatures have been collected from potential parents who are interested in sending their children to the school. 15 local churches of many different denominations have pledged their support – and more are considering it. And the team has produced a first draft of the very detailed application which has to be sent to the Department for Education by 24 February.

The strap-line for the new school is 'Education for life, in all its fullness'. This draws on Jesus' statement in St John's Gospel 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full'. The team has developed a set of values for the school, which may be found on the website. There are also 6 key aims: they want the school to be distinctively Christian; high-achieving academically; local, so that parents and others are involved in the school; disciplined; nurturing; and serving the community.

The planned admissions policy, if the school is over-subscribed, is that half the children should come from churchgoing families and half should be selected without reference to faith.

If the application is successful the school will be wholly funded by the government and overseen by the local churches which support the school. Working together, the churches would appoint the majority of the governors, help develop school-community relationships, and support the spiritual life of the school. This local ecumenical vision is unique in the UK and is one of the many innovative aspects of the proposal.

The team is asking for support in two main ways. First, please pray for the success of the application. There will be a Prayer Breakfast on 4 February at the Town Church at 8am, and a Service of Dedication for the Free School Proposal on 21 February at 11am at Chevening Church. Secondly, please do tell parents with Primary School-aged children about the proposal and encourage them to sign the parents' petition on the website:

www.sevenoakschristianschool.org.uk.