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Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009

Matt Dunkley  
01273 481316

Dear parent / carer

**RE: Proposed Eastbourne Academy on the ETC site**

I wrote to you in July to explain that East Sussex County Council is working with Sussex Downs College and the University of Brighton to explore whether Eastbourne Technology College (ETC) should become an Academy. I am now writing to you to update you on progress.

The Council, College and University have now prepared a document called the Expression of Interest for Government to consider. This document contains our outline plans for the Academy including that it would:

- Be on the existing ETC site and continue to admit up to 180 students each year as an 11-16 school
- Work in close partnership with local primary, secondary and special schools
- Have a new building with state-of-the art facilities
- Open in September 2010 in the existing buildings with a planned move into the new building in 2013 (the timescale is an estimate at this stage)

**It is important to note that all students who would be at ETC in September 2010 would automatically become part of the Academy and you would not need to do anything. This would also apply to any students due to start at ETC in September 2010.**

The Governors of ETC have approved this proposal and believe the Academy would allow us to build on the recent improvements at the school, enhance the community and provide better opportunities for existing and future students. Sussex Downs College, the Council and the University are committed to working with the Governors and existing staff of ETC to plan and manage a successful transition to the Academy, if it is approved.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> September, the Council's Cabinet will make a decision on whether to submit the Expression of Interest. If the document is agreed and submitted we hope that Government would make a decision quickly about whether the proposal moves to the next stage. If the Government approves the plans, the next step would include extensive public consultation where we would talk to local people, students, prospective students, parents, staff, governors and any other interested parties about the proposal to replace ETC with the Academy. We hope this consultation would take place in November and December this year.

The full version of the Expression of Interest document, and the report to the Cabinet on 23 September, is available on the East Sussex County Council website or in paper copy from the ETC school office. The full version includes more detail about the vision for the Academy that you may find interesting.

I will continue to keep you informed of progress during the project.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Dunkley', written in a cursive style.

Matt Dunkley  
Director of Children's Services