



8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear parents and carers

We have been eagerly awaiting today – the day schools have been able to re-open fully, and it has been fantastic to see our pupils return, re-engage with their peers and class staff. Thank you again for all your support and patience.

I am writing today to ask for your support for something different. Back in 2018, when we decided to form Enable Trust to strengthen our voice locally, regionally and nationally, and to seek to be able to do more for our pupils, we put in a competitive tender as a Trust, to open a new free school that the Department for Education had allowed South Glos LA to seek a 'sponsor' for. We were thrilled to win that tender, and be the Trust that will open Two Bridges Academy, which ought to be ready to open by September 2023. We believe that our vision of achieving more together for all our pupils will be strengthened by us opening and running Two Bridges.

The new school will be a **new and additional special school** in South Glos that is much needed because at present there simply are not enough places to meet all children's needs – children who need a special school place. Two Bridges will be all through special school for children with severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties, and for pupils with severe learning difficulties and autism. It will be sited next door to Marlwood School in Alveston, which will be ideal for shared opportunities and strengthening community.

### **Planning permission**

I am writing to you to ask for your support now with regard to the planning permission that is needed to progress further. Enable Trust has been working with the Department for Education, the Local Authority and the contractors to design our new special school to be as effective as possible an environment to support the needs of pupils. It is going to be a Net Zero Carbon development, and will therefore be as environmentally sustainable as possible. Appendix a is a letter about the proposed construction of the school, a website that has details about the design and answers to frequently asked questions.

Would you be able to visit the planning website ([www.twobridgesacademy.co.uk](http://www.twobridgesacademy.co.uk)) to see the proposals and to add your supportive comments via the link on the website?

We do not want planning permission to become a barrier to the much needed extra provision for children with complex needs.

With thanks in advance and best wishes,

Andrew Buckton