

The Cavendish School Newsletter – 27 March 2018

The Cavendish School will be a special free school dedicated to young people with autism spectrum condition (ASC) built on the site at Impington Village College. The school will serve families across Cambridgeshire, offering places for children with an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in Years 3 to 13.

Latest News

Opening Date agreed

We are delighted to announce that negotiations with the Department for Education (DfE) have finally resulted in the agreement of an opening date for TCS of September 2020. We are excited about the development of the new school and what it will offer for children and families in Cambridgeshire; however we understand that some parents may be frustrated with the length of time the planning and building process is taking: rest assured we share that too! Unfortunately this is mostly out of our control as the project timescale is dictated by funding approval at central government level. The certainty of having a date means that we can now plan in detail to ensure that we have the best possible school for our students ready to open in September 2020.

Ground Survey work

As you can see from the photos the ground survey work has taken place and we await the resulting feasibility report in the next couple of weeks. Test cores and trenches were dug on the site of the new build and also on the ground where existing IVC buildings are going to be re-sited.



Chairperson (Designate) of the TCS Local Governing Body

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed Julie Bailey as the Chairperson (Designate) of the TCS Local Governing Body. Julie will be working with us closely throughout the planning and designing of the school and will also be involved with the recruitment of the new Principal next year.

Julie brings a wealth of relevant experience and a real interest in autism. She was a teacher for many years before becoming a Specialist Learning Mentor at Cambridge University, working 1:1 with undergraduates and graduates with disabilities, mental health conditions and autism. Julie is also completing her Master of Education at Cambridge University in Psychology and Education, with her thesis focusing on attention and reasoning in individuals with autism. She is preparing doctoral research to study these processes of cognition in adolescents with and without autism in the classroom environment. Julie also is very interested in broader neurodiversity and mental wellbeing issues, and outdoor learning and environments.

We are excited that Julie has joined the team and look forward to her input and the insights she will bring from her research.

School visits

I had the opportunity recently to visit The Rise School, a special free school for children with autism that opened in September 2014 and proudly sits in a dedicated building on an impressive learning campus in Feltham, Hounslow. I had heard and read much about the school and it clearly offers a model of the sort of school we wish to create at The Cavendish School. It was an inspirational visit and to see a team impacting so positively on the lives and development of young people with autism left me even more excited about what we are looking to achieve here.

<http://www.theriseschool.com/>

Sharonne Horlock, our Strategic Leader of SEND, had a truly inspirational visit to Limpsfield Grange (an outstanding residential and day school for girls with social and interaction difficulties including autism). By visiting other schools we are able to have the benefit of their experience and this allows us to continue to plan TCS with confidence. The following link takes you to a video made by the students at Limpsfield about their own experiences.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZhZ0k1lyF8>

Prospective students

Thank you to everyone who has already joined our mailing list and expressed interest in The Cavendish School. We continue to invite parents/ carers and students who are interested in a place at the new school to get in touch. There is still much work to be done in order to open in September 2020, and we very much welcome your input so that we can build a great school. To contact us please:

- Use the contact form on our website <http://www.thecavendishschool.org.uk/>
- Email Cavendish@impington.cambs.sch.uk

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