Introductory Information and Consultation Document

Lyde Green Secondary School

Opening September 2022
INTRODUCING LYDE GREEN SECONDARY SCHOOL…

Lyde Green Secondary School will be a brand new, purpose built 11-16 secondary school, opening in September 2022. Located within the Lyde Green Development, the school will sit at the heart of its community, serving students from age 11 to 16 who live in the Lyde Green area and beyond. Lyde Green Secondary School will be part of the Olympus Academy Trust, a Trust of three secondary schools, an all-through (primary and secondary) school, a university technical college and five primary schools all located in South Gloucestershire and within easy travelling distance of one another.

Lyde Green Secondary School will be part of the Olympus Academy Trust, a Trust of three secondary schools, an all-through (primary and secondary) school, a university technical college and five primary schools all located in South Gloucestershire and within easy travelling distance of one another. Lyde Green Secondary School will provide the highest standards of ‘Collaboration, Excellence and Opportunity’ in line with the core principles of the Olympus Academy Trust, achieving outstanding outcomes for all students, regardless of ability or background. We believe that all students are unique, curious and capable individuals and that providing a caring and nurturing environment will support them in their development as young adults to become exceptional and valued contributors to modern society, making a positive difference in their communities.

We have experience within our Olympus Academy Trust leadership team of setting up a brand new secondary school from scratch, having opened Bradley Stoke Community School in 2005 in exactly the same position. We realised the potential this opportunity offered to students and the community. The local community has been delighted with the success achieved by the school and its students. We are confident that we can utilise the experience of opening Bradley Stoke Community School to inform how we plan, open and lead Lyde Green Secondary School.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

The Olympus Academy Trust will work in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council and the Department for Education to deliver a state of the art school for the community of Lyde Green. There will also be close liaison with the Castle School Education Trust who will be responsible for the primary provision on site in order to ensure that the school community has a coherent 4-16 educational experience.

VISION

Our vision for the students and parents, indeed the whole community of Lyde Green, is to deliver an outstanding, holistic educational experience to equip our students to become successful and fulfilled 21st century citizens. We will prepare our students with the knowledge, skills and personal qualities to be able to contribute fully to the world of work locally within South Gloucestershire and to wider opportunities, both national and international. We will also support them to develop their personal strengths and values, underpinned by our commitment to character education.

Our aim is to achieve this vision by;

• utilising the support, expertise and experience from within our Trust in curriculum, teaching and pastoral care teams as well as the specific needs of setting up a brand new school;

• putting the local community at the heart of everything we do;

• utilising links and relationships with Higher Education providers and employers within the local area that have already been established within our Trust Careers Education development programme. We have many strong partnerships – examples include the Ministry of Defence, the University of the West of England, Babcock Engineering and Tesco.
CURRICULUM

All students will follow a broad and balanced core curriculum of English, Maths, Science, Humanities and Languages, enhanced through the study of a range of additional specialist subjects including product design, IT and Computing, Social Sciences, PE, Drama, Art, Music and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHEE).

Olympus Academy Trust schools have aligned curricula for all courses and qualifications followed in Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 in both academic and vocational qualifications. This aligned approach enables teams of teachers to share best practice, assessments and professional development across all of our centres, with this joint working undoubtedly providing a better experience for our students.

We are currently in the process of aligning Key Stage 3 curriculum and assessment across our Trust schools (‘The Olympus Way’) which will be ready to launch in Lyde Green at the same time as our other centres in September 2022. This strength in the wider working across our Trust brings a huge benefit to all staff and students within our schools and is particularly welcome when it comes to setting up Lyde Green Secondary School. We can draw on existing expertise within the Trust and feel secure that successful lessons, resources and assessments are planned and available, as are a wealth of specialist knowledge and experience across all curriculum areas. This will support the setting up and implementation of the curriculum and will result in us providing a high standard of learning experience for students.

This strength of the curriculum will be underpinned by a formalised character education programme, encompassing a variety of extra-curricular, enrichment and curriculum learning opportunities. This commitment to learning outside the curriculum and classroom will result in innovative, varied and engaging activities that will develop characteristics in our students that are key to the educational approaches at Lyde Green Secondary School:

- Confidence;
- Determination and Grit;
- Tolerance and Respect;
- Drive and Ambition;
- Curiosity; and
- Understanding of Wider Society

Research has shown the positive impact that developing these skills, attributes and characteristics has on a young person’s learning and achievement and on their ability to navigate the challenges of modern life successfully.

The Trust’s well-developed links with local and national employers based within the local area will provide depth and relevance, bringing the curriculum to life through real world experiences and a context for their learning.

In addition to establishing a high-quality education at the school, a comprehensive enrichment programme will be provided that goes beyond simple bolt-on extra-curricular activities. This is another advantage of delivering this through our Character Education programme.

We will take opportunities to have curriculum enrichment days when students can take part in trips and visits or when we can have visitors into school. We will also collapse the ‘normal’ curriculum on occasion in order to provide other extended opportunities to learn and to experience a different type of learning beyond the classroom.
PASTORAL CARE

Students will have their pastoral needs met by dedicated pastoral leaders who will remain with them throughout their time in the school. Pastoral staff will oversee the progress, attendance and behaviour of the students within their care and build lasting relationships with the families they serve. They will ensure that the highest standards of uniform, behaviour for learning and conduct are exemplified by our students.

Through the PSHEE and Assembly programme, students will embody the school's ethos. They will make well informed choices regarding their physical and mental health and well-being and their behaviour outside of school in the local community, as well as when using online technologies. All students will have access to high quality, independent advice and guidance, enabling them to make informed choices at key transition points and gaining a sound understanding of financial capability and economic awareness. We are fortunate to have a wealth of experience within the Trust team to provide high quality support, access to work placements and links to employers, apprenticeship providers and higher and further education institutions.

Students with pastoral and/or learning needs will be identified by a dedicated SEND team, early in the transition process from primary to Lyde Green secondary school. This team is already expert in working with the same local providers. Students with specific identified needs will be supported throughout their education to overcome barriers so that their achievements are at least equal to their peers.

All students, regardless of background, will be supported by dedicated 'Student Champions', who will be adults responsible for securing equality of opportunity. This approach will be embedded within everything we do.
BREADTH OF EXPERIENCE

Crucial to achieving outstanding, high-quality educational outcomes for our students is a responsibility to enrich and broaden students' learning by providing valuable experiences inside and outside the classroom. These will promote independence and skills and will contribute to them becoming successful and fulfilled members of society. These are key components of the Character Education programme and it is through this programme that Lyde Green Secondary School will offer an enrichment programme consisting of a variety of extra-curricular activities.

Student Voice will have prominence from the school's inception with Year Councils and a Student Leadership Team playing a pivotal role in the running and development of the School.

Activities will range from chess clubs, dance groups, debating societies, eco-schools and residential educational visits, both within the UK and internationally. Our aim is to develop global citizens able to contribute successfully to the new global community we are now a part of. There will also be a commitment to Outdoor Adventurous Activities within the enrichment programme for all students to experience the benefits of enjoying the world around us and to explore and experience challenge, both physically and mentally. Again, there is a wealth of research supporting the positive impact of young people being involved in these activities. Our Trust has extensive experience of organising and running these types of activities.

Throughout the year, all subject teams will contribute to the programme ensuring we offer an extensive range of activities to engage all. Students will also be encouraged to test their skills in local and international arenas across areas as diverse as performing arts, music, sports, STEM subject areas (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. We have had the experience of growing the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in Bradley Stoke Community School as a brand new school and it now has 50% of all Year 10 students completing the Silver Award. We would bring that knowledge and experience into Lyde Green to build similar success as part of the additional learning for our young people.
Students will also be consulted regularly on opportunities they would like to be made available within their school.

**We aim to create an ethos where:**
- The local community is at the heart of everything we do
- No student is ever anonymous
- Everyone actively participates in school life
- Students will feel and be safe
- Students are inspired and motivated to raise their aspirations, achieve beyond their expectations and ensure that they exploit opportunities to the full
- British values which include open-mindedness towards others and respect for all are embedded in our way of working
- The highest standards of uniform, behaviour for learning and conduct are exemplified by our students
- Our Character education of Confidence, Determination and Grit, Tolerance and Respect, Drive and Ambition, Curiosity and Wider Society underpin our successes
- Achievement and success is valued and celebrated
- Problem solving, reasoning and learning from mistakes are valued and are part of the wider learning process

**Our Core Values**

As a Trust, we talk about our vision and values as they determine our behaviour, culture and way of working. Our shared vision is to enable all our learners to achieve beyond their expectations, and to develop the skills to succeed and enjoy life.

**Collaboration**

We believe in working together. Collaboration is about support, thinking of others and self-improvement. This applies to adults and children. We will involve the community in the life of the school and value feedback and involvement. There will be opportunities for students to work together with students from other Olympus schools, notably in connection with post 16 education as there will be a natural progression to the Olympus Post 16 Partnership at Winterbourne Academy. Staff will work together with other staff in similar roles and will share resources and strategies across the Trust, particularly in relation to aligned approaches to curriculum and teaching and learning.

**Excellence**

We believe in learning together and ensuring that we learn from the best within Olympus and beyond. If something is working well in one school, we will adapt and adopt in other schools for greater benefit across the Trust. We have high expectations of all learners and will support them to be the best that they can be. We will provide opportunities to collaborate but also to compete, strive for more and be better at all times.

**Opportunity**

A Trust with 10+ schools has great capacity to provide opportunities for adults and children. Many staff choose to stay within the Trust and take on new roles in other schools. This helps ensure consistency between schools. For students, we operate a policy of no detriment in relation to the
curriculum and timetable: Wherever possible, if a student wants to do a course or subject that is not on offer in their own school, we will make it available to them in another Olympus school. An example of opportunity is that Bristol Technology and Engineering Academy has joined Olympus in 2021 so we are now able to offer a specialist engineering pathway for Olympus students in Key Stages 4&5.

SITE/LOCATION INFORMATION
Lyde Green Secondary School will be located in the Lyde Green Housing development of 2500 houses across a development comprising 177 hectares. The school development site sits on an area of 2.41 hectares and will comprise a 900 place 11-16 secondary school with associated external playing, fields, sports pitches, and car/cycle parking for staff and visitors. The school will be co-located with a two-form entry primary school run by the Castle School Education Trust (CSET). We have a well-established strong relationship with our colleagues at CSET, having run our Teaching School together over the previous three years, and are confident we will continue to work well across the primary and secondary settings on the Lyde Green site.

The secondary school building is designed with a main entrance that leads into an open two-storey atrium that forms the spine of the school. This central hub can be accessed by all, creates a sense of community and focus. We will ensure a sense of continuity from primary into secondary through close working with CSET so that it feels like an all-through school.

The Secondary school has three main volumes arranged around a large courtyard. At the front sits a three-storey teaching block with specialist classrooms on the ground floor, general classrooms on the first floor and Science classrooms on the second floor. The central area that is connected to the atrium provides a dining area, a multi-use hall and two studios and changing facilities on the ground floor, a resource area/library, SEN and music facilities on the first floor and general classrooms on the second floor. A 4-court sports hall is located at the north side of the courtyard with easy access to the sports facilities and playing fields.

Community use is planned for the site, which aligns with the vision for the school and Trust as being at the heart of the local community. Community groups will be able to hire facilities.

ACADEMY OPENING HOURS
The school operating hours are yet to be agreed but will align with the other Olympus secondary settings which start at 8:30 a.m. and operate a school day based around 5 one-hour lessons and a rolling 30-minute lunchbreak. This enables a relatively early finish to formal lessons to allow time for an enrichment programme from 2:45 p.m. There will be provision for students to be in school to work before and after the formal timetabled day. Further information about before and after school activities, the enrichment programme and extended learning opportunities will be available in the coming months.

ADMISSIONS
There will be 120 places available in Year 7 in September 2022 and no places in any other year groups. The planned admission number for subsequent years is 180 Year 7 students each following September. Admissions will follow the same process as for all other South Gloucestershire secondary schools through the co-ordinated admissions scheme. A frequently asked questions document is available via The Olympus Academy Trust website here. The full Lyde Green admissions policy and application information is available via South Gloucestershire Council’s website here. Any queries should be directed to our Trust Admissions Coordinator: Lisa.Stevens@olympustrust.co.uk.
COMMUNITY FACILITIES
Lyde Green Secondary School will provide an opportunity for the use of extensive, purpose-built facilities by the local community. These will include sporting facilities, meeting rooms, a drama theatre/meeting hall, IT facilities and other specialist rooms such as multimedia, photography and food technology. Sporting facilities will include a large sports hall, football pitches, multi-use games areas, tennis, hockey, athletics and cricket pitches.

STAFF AND RECRUITMENT
Dave Baker, Chief Executive of the Olympus Academy Trust, is leading the development of Lyde Green Secondary School with capacity and support from other Trust colleagues. Dave was Headteacher of Bradley Stoke Community School when it was built in 2004-5 and was involved in the process of growing the school from scratch to being judged outstanding by Ofsted in 2009. He has led and supported other schools in the local area in his capacity as leader of The Olympus Academy Trust since 2011 and has a strong track record in leadership and school improvement. He leads the Olympus central team which provides support for all schools within the Trust.

Steve Moir was Deputy Headteacher and a key member of the team which, with Dave Baker, set up Bradley Stoke Community School as a brand new school from 2005-10. He has been Headteacher of two other schools in Somerset before returning to Bradley Stoke Community School as Headteacher in 2015. The school has consistently strong outcomes and an Ofsted ‘Good’ rating overall with ‘Outstanding’ for Leadership and Management and Pastoral Care. Steve is currently Chair of South Gloucestershire Secondary Heads.

Jason Beardmore is Headteacher of Winterbourne Academy and Lyde Green students and staff will be based there in temporary accommodation whilst their school is being built. Lyde Green will have a long-term relationship with Winterbourne Academy as it is the closest Olympus school and is likely to be where most students will progress for post 16 education within the Olympus Post 16 Partnership. Jason has been Headteacher of three other schools prior to joining Winterbourne in 2018 and each school’s Ofsted rating has improved under his leadership. Winterbourne is awaiting inspection this year and is on a strong upward trajectory.

Other Olympus team members who will play key roles in supporting the development of Lyde Green’s secondary school are Julia Anwar, Olympus Head of Business Operations; Claire Banks, Olympus Director of Education (primary); Gary Lobbett, Olympus Director of Education (secondary); Joe Ryan, Olympus Head of Estates and Facilities; Susie Beresford-Wylie, Olympus Director of Safeguarding, SEND, Inclusion and Vulnerable Groups; Matt Wall, Olympus Head of HR; Lisa Stevens, Olympus Admissions Coordinator; Sarah Gardner, Olympus Executive Assistant; Sarah Williams, Olympus Chair of Trustees; and Isabel Marsden, Olympus Vice-Chair of Trustees.
We will be recruiting and appointing highly motivated and qualified staff for Lyde Green Secondary School. The highest priority appointment in the first instance is the Headteacher, who will be appointed in October 2021 in order to start in post in January 2022. This will give him/her the time to plan for the school’s opening in September 2022. The Headteacher will be supported by members of the Olympus central team and will lead on recruitment of other staff ahead of opening.

The Olympus Academy Trust has a strong track record in initial teacher training, with over 20 trainees each year. This provides an excellent opportunity to grow, nurture and develop the best teaching talent in the locality. Lyde Green will benefit from this pathway as well as likely interest across the Olympus schools and beyond.

GOVERNANCE
The Olympus Academy Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees. Details of Board members and the way the Trust Board works are on the Olympus website. Each school has a School Improvement Committee (SIC) which is responsible in Olympus for local governance. The composition of the SIC is determined by the level of support needed by each school and will have involvement from Olympus trustees, executive leaders, school staff, parents and community representatives. Each SIC meets 6 times a year and supports the Board of Trustees in its role to provide challenge and support for the school’s leadership.

In addition to the SIC, each school has a parent forum which meets at least once per term to discuss issues of relevance and concerns and these are shared with the school improvement committee.

In preparation for opening, Lyde Green Secondary School will have a Project Board which will act on behalf of the Olympus Board of Trustees and will be accountable to the Board to ensure the school is ready to open in September 2022. The Project Board will be chaired by the Olympus Chair of Trustees and will be supported by trustees, executive leaders and school leadership, once appointed.

TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2022-23
The permanent site for Lyde Green Secondary School will not be ready for September 2022 so the first Year 7 cohort of 120 students will be based at Winterbourne Academy. South Gloucestershire Council will provide transport between Lyde Green and Winterbourne free of charge for all students who need it while they are based at Winterbourne Academy. Lyde Green will have its own accommodation for lessons and for unstructured time but will be able to access some of Winterbourne Academy’s specialist facilities and resources to enable provision of a full curriculum experience. The Olympus central team is also based at Winterbourne Academy and will be able to add capacity and provide support during the temporary phase.

CONSULTATION
In accordance with Section 10 of the Academies Act, 2010, The Olympus Academy Trust is required to conduct a formal consultation exercise, to determine whether it should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department for Education to provide and run the school. Based on the information provided in this document and on the Olympus website, we would be grateful if you could please click on the link here to answer the questions so that we can proceed. The consultation begins on 27th September 2021 and closes on 8th November 2021.