

## **NEWS FROM THE FALMER ACADEMY**

Immediate Release Wednesday 3 December 2008

### **NEW FALMER ACADEMY 'GETTING VERY REAL' SAY PARENTS AS GOVERNMENT GIVES BUILDING WORK THE GREEN LIGHT**

Parents at Falmer High School have described the new Falmer Academy as 'moving forward' and 'getting very real', as the Government has today (3 December) given the go-ahead for a building contractor to be appointed to build their new school. The Government has also signed the Funding Agreement to allow all other aspects of the Academy to be developed.

Construction is planned to start in Summer 2009 in time for the new Academy to open in September 2010.

The Falmer Academy project team has also announced today that it will be setting up a parents' council in January 2009 to ensure that parents can help shape the new school.

**Penny Langridge from Ringmer Drive, Moulsecoomb, who has three children at Falmer High and another who finished in September** says, 'This latest decision feels very positive, the Academy is getting very real now. It proves to parents and others in the community that the plans are moving forward and the new school we've all been talking about is now becoming a reality. My kids are really pleased to be part of this exciting project and it will feel truer to them as they start to see activity around the school.'

**Falmer High parent-governor Brian Shields** says, 'This is great news for the school and all those involved. The Government's the decision comes after a lot of hard work and dedication from many people to secure a better future for our children and the local community.'

**Falmer High students have also welcomed news of the Government go-ahead.**

**Year 8 student Elle Hargie** says, 'I feel really excited about the whole thing. It makes me feel special and privileged that we are going to get the Academy. I am looking forward to brand new building and equipment. I think we will get better grades if we've got state of the art equipment and facilities for our lessons.'

**Student Josh Eblett, also in Year 8,** says, 'I think it is really exciting because we get new equipment and brand new classrooms and we'll get to do different things that children don't normally get to do in other schools. I am really looking forward to the new building and all the facilities.'

**Academy sponsor Rod Aldridge, from The Aldridge Foundation** says:

'This is a major landmark in the development of the Academy and I am delighted that we can now move forward to create a great place of learning for young people in the area. Falmer Academy will have first class facilities and will offer a rich and stimulating curriculum, including the specialisms of Entrepreneurship and Sport.'

**Councillor Vanessa Brown, Cabinet member for Children and Young People,** says:

'We are delighted that progress can now be made in developing the new Academy. It represents a major addition to the family of schools in Brighton and Hove and is a great opportunity for the generations of young people who will attend it.'