



10 November 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to update you with information that we have received from Cllr Anntoinette Bramble and Michael Coleman, Strategic Head of Education Property, through our parent's group.

The Learning Trust's preferred approach to school development is still to move Benthal school directly onto the Nightingale site in 2020 and they are on target for this. They have not selected architects as yet so the planning and design of the new building is still some way away.

In terms of the new secondary schools, these have had initial government approval, the council should be receiving the feasibility study report around now and the consultation process should begin in November for the first school to be built (i.e. Shoreditch Park rather than the school which will eventually be located on the Benthal site).

Please see below some common questions and Cllr Bramble's answers.

### **Tiger Way**

**Q:** Planning permission has been granted, is there now a timetable for the site's build out?

**A:** Construction is scheduled to start by the end of this calendar year, and will be completed in late 2018. It is planned that Nightingale Primary will occupy the building from January 2019.

### **Benthal Relocation**

**Q:** with new children having just started the school, we have a greater number who will be affected by the relocation to the current Nightingale site.

- Is the LT now at a stage where it can commit to Benthal moving seamlessly to its new site?
- At what stage is the LT in the procurement process? Have architects been appointed or a tender been issued? If not, when will this happen?
- Has a decision been made about the number of residential units to be co-located on the site?

**A:** The Council is currently reviewing the proposals for the existing Benthal and Nightingale Primary School sites, with the aim of confirming its preferred option, scope, and timetable for the future use of each early in the New Year. No architects have been appointed, nor any tenders issued. No decisions have yet been made about whether residential units will be included, nor the quantum of units should they be.

### **Shoreditch and Downs Park schools**

**Q:** will we have access to the feasibility studies undertaken in the summer or, at least a summary report?

**A:** The Council should have received the final feasibility study report for the proposed Britannia project in mid-October 2016. It will then consider the options that have been identified. Assuming it is decided to proceed with the scheme, the Council will consult on a number of options. This consultation process is expected to commence in November, with a series of public meetings to be arranged for December.

**Q:** Has approval been approved given by the government?

**A:** The Department for Education has given initial approval for both schools to proceed.

**Q:** Would it be possible to provide an up-to-date timetable of development?

**A:** The timetable below is provisional, subject to the Council deciding to proceed to the next stage (formal consultation) and then to delivery in due course. The dates for subsequent milestones are, therefore, current projections, and are subject to change:

<b>Milestone</b>	<b><u>Estimated date</u></b>
Consultation expected to commence	November 2016
Decision on whether to proceed (following steps assume we do, of course)	March 2017
Planning approval given/ contract signed/ construction starts	Early 2018
New secondary school opens	September 2020

At the next Main Governing Body meeting the school building move will be an agenda item for further discussion so we can discuss in detail the new information and the school's next steps.

Regards,

Sandra Delapenha-Chin  
Head Teacher