



**Andrew Adonis**

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Glenda Jackson MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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*Dear Glenda Jackson*

I am writing to update you on the Camden Academy proposal.

I have taken seriously your concerns about the provision of new places for pupils who currently attend primary schools located to the south of the Euston Road.

The Council has held meetings with representatives of the Holborn and St Pancras Secondary School Campaign and face to face interviews with parents of pupils at primary schools south of the Euston Road. As well as further meetings, the Council informs me that it is planning to undertake:

- a demographic analysis to help establish whether there is additional demand for places;
- exploration of potential design, size and funding options to implement any specific solutions; and
- ongoing work with South Camden Community School on the continued development of its offer to residents south of the Euston Road.
- further work with DCSF, City of London, Westminster and Islington councils on potential for central London solutions and potential for existing or new sites in South Camden or any of the three other Boroughs.

We will actively encourage Camden Council to come forward with a second Academy proposal for the Southern part of the Borough. As we discussed when you and I met with the Secretary of State and local parents, I can assure you that DCSF will play our full part in this endeavour.

Alongside this, Camden Council has taken the decision to continue with its estate-wide school modernisation strategy as planned and to progress the work outlined above outside of Camden's existing BSF programme. In doing so, the Council and University College London have continued to develop

their formal expression of interest to establish a first Academy for the Borough and have now formally submitted their proposal to the Secretary of State for consideration. The proposal is for an Academy for 11-18 year-olds, specialising in science and mathematics and located on a site situated on Adelaide Road.

The Secretary of State has duly given careful consideration to the proposal and has today agreed that the project can progress to the feasibility stage. During feasibility UCL and Camden Council will continue to develop the detailed vision for the Academy and its key policies, including its admission arrangements, which will be fully in accordance with the Admissions Code of Practice. At the end of the feasibility stage we will consider whether to enter into a funding agreement to establish the Academy alongside other proposals for South Camden. Should the Council wish to reconsider how its planned additional 8FE is delivered it would need to do so and submit revised plans before any funding agreement is signed.

In respect of provision at Frank Barnes School, the Council is consulting on a range of options which include relocating the school to existing Camden school sites and transferring the pupils to a special school in Haringey, as well as retaining provision on the existing site.

As you know, school organisation is a matter for local determination and in such cases it is right that Ministers do not take decisions on school closures or reorganisation. However, it is important that whatever decision the local authority takes on the future of the school that high quality provision for these pupils continues – either on the current site or elsewhere. This issue will also need to be resolved during the feasibility stage of the Academy and I look forward to discussing this with you and Frank further.

I have written to Frank Dobson in similar terms.

PP TSans

**ANDREW ADONIS**