

2023 Henley Camland Statement RE Alkerden Academy

Alkerden CE Academy, the Education Hub at the heart of Whitecliffe, continues to be one of the key cornerstones in the new development site. We see it as essential infrastructure to residents of the growing community.

As such, we remain committed to bringing it forward and into use for the children of existing and new residents as soon as is practically possible, whilst ensuring we align its delivery with the projected pupil places arising from the site. This is to avoid the situation of overprovision resulting in disproportionate allocation of spaces to children, and thus siblings, from outside the Ebbsfleet catchment area.

Work has commenced on site and the foundations to the secondary school are now almost complete. Since commencing the works, however, the Autumn Budget, the well documented impact on interest rates, mortgages and subsequent slowing of house sales, has necessitated a review of occupation rates and current demand for school places.

Our aspiration following the Covid outbreak was to open the secondary school in September 2024, on a phased basis, starting with years 7 and 8. Having assessed the current and forecast number of properties on the Whitecliffe and Ebbsfleet Green developments, it is now considered this would be far beyond the required capacity and cause availability issues for future pupils from those areas. We have spent the last few months working with our stakeholder partners, Kent County Council, Ebbsfleet Development Corporation and the Aletheia Academies Trust reviewing this situation very carefully.

It has been jointly decided with the stakeholder partners that, in the interest of protecting future capacity, the correct decision is to commence secondary school provision in September 2025. This provision will start with four forms of Year 7. As the number of pupils is relatively small, for the first 12 months provision will be made in temporary modular accommodation.

Work on the campus started on site in 2022 and the three main buildings, which will include a community sports facility, are planned to be fully completed ready for handover to Aletheia Academies Trust in summer 2026.