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May 2025

Dear Stakeholder,

As you may know, the new 200 place special school to be built at the site off The Wheatridge East in Abbeydale was approved for planning permission by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) in November last year. Building works will start in June 2025 with the aim of opening the new school in January 2027.

Reach South Academy Trust has been appointed to run the new school. We attended community meetings in spring/summer last year along with GCC and will be holding meetings with the local community, schools and others to talk about the special school provision. We are now engaging in a consultation about the new school including the school's vision, curriculum, admissions criteria, transport and the name of the new school.

We are committed to ensuring that the community remains central to the school. As such we would like to invite you to our consultation meeting events to learn more about us, the new school and share your views. **The formal consultation period will begin on Monday 9 June and run until Friday 25 July 2025.** The primary purpose of this s10 consultation is to inform the decision on entering into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to establish the school. For more information, please see the S10 Consultation Guidance Document attached.

There will be 2 meetings at Christchurch Church, Heron Way, Abbeydale, Gloucester, GL4 5EQ to be held on: -

- **Monday 30 June: 18:00 – 19:30**
- **Monday 7 July: 13:00 – 14:30**

To assist us with gauging approximate numbers for each meeting, please can you kindly confirm your attendance by emailing s10consultation@reachsouth.org with your preferred date of attendance. Alternatively, if you are unable to make the above events but would like to provide feedback on the new school, you can email s10consultation@reachsouth.org or visit our website <https://www.reachsouth.org/our-academies/school-projects> where you will find a link to our questionnaire that seeks to capture views on key aspects of the proposal.

As an aside, you may have also received an invitation recently from EG Carter & Co. Ltd, who are the approved construction company that will be delivering the new build project. Their event at the Abbeydale Sports & Community Centre on 22nd May is separate from the above and a great chance to meet the contractors who will be onsite at Wheatridge throughout the construction phase.

We look forward to welcoming you at our drop-in events.

Yours sincerely

Michael Peters
Senior Education Consultant