13th September 2016

PRESS RELEASE

**Proposals for a new Church of England All-through School in Burgess Hill**

The Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust (DCAT) will shortly submit a bid to the Department for Education to open an all-through Church of England school in Burgess Hill. The school will be for children aged 4-16 years, from Reception to Year 11 on one site.

Lesley Gannon CEO of DCAT explained ‘Our school will be needed to support the new community in the Northern Arc area of Burgess Hill where 5,000 new homes are planned in the next few years. At present there is no Church of England school in Burgess Hill and so this is an exciting opportunity for us.’

If approved the school will open to Reception class children in 2019 and then to Year 7 pupils in 2022. This staggered approach is to ensure the school grows in line with the planned housing development. Once the school reaches capacity it will be two form entry at primary phase and six form entry at secondary phase. The Mid Sussex District Plan has identified the need for two new primary schools and one secondary school, DCAT’s proposal will ensure that a large proportion of that need is met.

DCAT is the Multi Academy Trust for the Diocese of Chichester which has 158 schools across Sussex, providing an excellent education within a Christian ethos to over 37,000 children.

Canon Dr Ann Holt OBE, the Diocesan Director of Education, said ‘We are very pleased to be working with DCAT, St Lawrence CE Primary Academy and Holy Trinity CE Secondary School on this new school bid. Our vision is for this new Christian school is to provide a first class education for all the children in the Northern Arc.’

The new school will have a Christian ethos and be open to those of all faiths and no faith.

Will Kemp, Vicar of the Point Church in Burgess Hill is ‘excited that this proposal will provide the Northern Arc’s emerging community with a real focal point with the Church and the school at the heart of the community.’

Currently the Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust has four schools in its trust in Eastbourne and Hastings with two more schools set to join in the coming months.

**A public meeting is to be held at St Lawrence CE Primary Academy in the evening of Tuesday 27th September when the proposals will be outlined and those present will have the opportunity to ask questions. For those interested in attending, further information on this event including timings can be found at** [www.burgesshillceallthroughschool.org](http://www.burgesshillceallthroughschool.org) **Come to St Lawrence and you will be able to see what an outstanding Church of England education looks like!**

Anybody wishing to find out more about the vision for the school, to register interest and make their views known should visit [www.burgesshillceallthroughschool.org](http://www.burgesshillceallthroughschool.org) to complete the survey.