

## **Trust Statement in support of the proposed school on the site of the Mortlake Brewery**

Dear Members

Firstly, please accept our apologies for not being able to attend in person this evening due to end of term commitments.

We would like to tell you about who we are and what we do.

Aspirations Academies Trust (Aspirations) is a well-established Multi Academy Trust, founded in 2011 by Steve and Paula Kenning, both of whom are former secondary Headteachers with more than 20 years of headship experience between them. The first Aspirations Academies opened in 2012 and currently the Trust operates 16 successful schools across the south of England. Aspirations has turned around 11 failing schools and has opened 5 brand new schools. The 6<sup>th</sup>, Livingstone Academy Bournemouth, opened in September 2021. Aspirations currently has 1 school rated 'Outstanding' by OFSTED, 1 'Requires Improvement' (up from Special Measures prior to being an Aspirations Academy) and the rest are 'Good' or waiting for their first inspection.

As such, Aspirations is a trust that has a proven track record in turning around, opening and operating schools successfully.

The vision for Livingstone Academy West London (as the proposed school will be known) is that as well as developing knowledge and qualifications that are essential for success, young people will develop the critical skills that they need to thrive in this digital world. They will be creators of technology, not just consumers of it. They will develop problem solving skills, creativity, critical thinking and collaboration skills. All of which the World Economic Forum considers to be the essential skills needed for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Currently, schools tend to spend too little time focusing on developing these skills, whilst at Livingstone they will be an integral part of the curriculum.

By way of further context, the recently opened Livingstone Academy Bournemouth is oversubscribed, having captured the hearts and minds of parents and their children. It opened with 150 Year 7 students in September 2021 and there were more than 380 applications for these places. Year 8 is also full, with 30 Reception and Year 1 places. In September 2023, when the whole new building is complete there will be 2 forms of entry in all the primary year groups.

Livingstone Academy Bournemouth has started life extremely well with students really enjoying the challenging and engaging style of learning. The feedback from parents is that the vision for the school is captivating and offers a modern, refreshing approach to education. Parents and children tell us that they are convinced by the school's approach to developing knowledge and know-how so that they become able to apply their knowledge in complex contexts and develop the critical skills that are essential to the modern workplace as well as to their lives in this fast-changing world. We see no reason why Livingstone Academy West London would not be equally popular as a first-choice school for local residents.

Aspirations' academies operate in a range of different locations, from city centre to residential estates. Each area presents different issues. Through working with local councils, residents and parents, Aspirations' academies have developed appropriate traffic and people management schemes, in accordance with a robust school travel plan. In reality, we have had very few incidents of parental and resident dissatisfaction. In places where there has been an issue, we have operated staggered starts and finishes, arranged for wardens to manage traffic, etc, subject to a traffic management plan.

Aspirations also actively encourage shared use of facilities with other local schools and 'out of hours' use of their facilities by the local community as part of a community use agreement to be agreed with the local planning authority.

We hope that you will agree that this site and this planning application represent the best opportunity to secure much-needed secondary school places and deliver a first-class learning environment for local school children in this part of the borough.

We respectfully ask that you resolve to grant planning permission this evening.

Thank you.

**Paula and Steve Kenning**  
**Co-founders and Managing Directors, Aspirations Academies Trust.**

**14 July 2023**