



**THE ISLAND
FREE SCHOOL**
SERVING THE ISLE OF WIGHT

5th June 2013

Pre – opening phase

Now that the euphoria of our successful application begins to fade, our attention has turned to the exciting task of realising our vision for Island education and preparing to open our school. To this end Steph Boyd (project lead) and Nigel Malkin (founding member) travelled to London today to meet with our dedicated Department for Education contact and hear from Free Schools Minister Lord Nash and Secretary of State Michael Gove. Much of the day was spent in meetings with Department for Education and Education Funding Agency representatives in preparation for the receipt of the pre-opening grant which will effectively finance the school through to opening in September 2014.

The steering group has now been split into four sub groups who will each take responsibility for the delivery of a key section of the pre-opening stage. The four sections are: Site/Buildings, Admissions, Staffing/Curriculum and Marketing. The work of each group will be overseen by one of the four appointed governors in conjunction with Steph who will oversee the entire process in his role as project lead.

Each group will be extremely busy in the coming months, but Steph and Nigel have asked that the lead member for each group write a short update for parents every two weeks to ensure you are all informed of our progress. These updates will be available on our website and will be emailed out.

Site

The Site committee have their first meeting with our Education Funding Agency appointed project manager next week, and we hope to have further updates on this crucial element of our bid soon. This information will be shared with you as soon as it is available.

Uniform

The admissions group have been tasked with creating our school uniform and your initial thoughts would be welcomed via the email address above.

Admissions

As mentioned in the information evenings we will run a parallel application system in the first year. Once our admissions policy has been signed off by the Secretary of State, a formal admissions form will be sent out to all parents who have expressed interest in a place for their child at The Island Free School.

Open Evenings

We will hold open evenings early in September for parents to meet the team and to give an opportunity to discuss, in more detail, the vision and values of our School.

Kind regards,

The Island Free School Team