



The Charter School

East Dulwich

News
For immediate release
08 October 2015

Southwark's Dulwich Community Hospital site secured for new secondary school and health centre.

The Charter School East Dulwich, the new secondary school opening in September 2016 to serve students in East Dulwich and South Camberwell, has formally secured its permanent site this week with the acquisition of part of the Dulwich Community Hospital site by the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

Transferred by NHS Property Services (NHSPS) to the EFA, this high profile site, is the ideal space for the development of the new Charter School East Dulwich, which will also see the development of a new health centre by the NHSPS as a major re-generation of community asset.

Since the successful bid to the DfE by The Charter School Educational Trust in March 2015, to open a sibling school for its 'Outstanding' rated school The Charter School in Dulwich, the EFA have been in discussions with NHS Property Services to purchase the remaining parcel of land in order to build a brand new secondary school. It will eventually accommodate 1680 11-18 year olds.

Securing the remaining parcel of land of the hospital site by the EFA is the ideal outcome for all, enabling the delivery of high end educational offering and a much needed health service hub in this dense urban area.

A significant portion of the site will be released to The Charter School East Dulwich immediately, with the rest handed over on completion of the sale for the final parcel of land. The remainder of the school site will be released by NHS Property Services through a phased programme as health services migrate to their new centre development.

The Charter School East Dulwich is currently consulting the community for the temporary buildings which will be complete by September 2016 ready for its first intake of year 7 students. Applications for entry are open now through the new school's website at www.chartereastdulwich.org.uk.

Alex Crossman, headteacher of The Charter School East Dulwich, said,

"This is a seminal moment for us. We are delighted to be able to offer comfort and security regarding our permanent site to the huge number of local families who have already applied for places at our school. We can now focus on our singular goal of developing one of the leading secondary schools in the country."

Cllr Victoria Mills, Southwark Council Cabinet Member for Children and Schools, said,

"This is fantastic news, the Dulwich Community Hospital site is finally getting the new lease of life that Southwark Council and the community have fought so hard to secure. Making sure we have enough secondary school places is one of the biggest challenges we face, especially because procuring sites of this size and potential are few and far between in inner London, so this is a very welcome milestone."

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Notes to editors over page

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Other quotes from local MPs can be obtained on request.

Images available:

Building images of Dulwich Hospital. Credit: The Charter School East Dulwich

Early proposed architectural options for the temporary building and eventual school site. Credit: Images courtesy of Achitype

Alex Crossman, headteacher of The Charter School East Dulwich. Credit: not required.

Background:

The Charter School East Dulwich will be a co-educational, non-selective, inclusive secondary school serving all communities near the school.

The Charter School Educational Trust's vision and ethos is for a community school serving the local area and it is expected that the majority of pupils will be within walking distance of the school. The school will be encouraging pupils to walk or cycle to school.

The Charter School East Dulwich aspires to be fully integrated with its local community. In addition to providing an excellent education for children and young adults of East Dulwich and South Camberwell, the school will encourage local residents and associations to use school facilities out of hours. This will include access to the school's purpose-built sports facilities.

The Dulwich Hospital was built in 1887 as an infirmary by the Guardians of the Poor of the Parish of St Saviours, Southwark. It served as a military hospital in the first world war and then a community hospital since 1930.

Public exhibition event for planning for temporary building:

Saturday 17th October 2015 - 1pm –4pm

United Reformed Church, East Dulwich Grove, London SE22 8RH

The design of the new school buildings will be carried out in close collaboration with our founding cohort of families and the wider community. The design will adhere to the following principles:

- The cultivation of useable outdoor space and the creation of a campus feel
- The creation of healthy spaces for work and play, including the maximal use of natural light and good acoustics
- The provision of technology to enhance learning throughout the school site
- The enhancement of the local community through sympathetic and environmentally responsible and sustainable design

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