

## **Catch22's vision for the MyPlace Building at Parkfield**

### **Our education mission**

Catch22 provides young people aged 4 to 18 with alternative education in order for them to progress and succeed in sustained education or employment. We do this through high quality teaching and learning based on effective relationships that enable the achievement of life skills and meaningful qualifications.

### **Catch22 context**

Catch22 believes not only that education is a fundamental building block in transforming peoples' lives but that also that there must be the right balance between academic, behavioural and employability skills. We believe that enrichment activities outside of the classroom are essential in developing well rounded students who become active and engaged citizens.

We currently have one sponsored academy with five more in the pipeline including The Torbay School which is due to split and become our second and third academies early in 2017 and will be known as 'The Brunel Academy' and 'The Burton Academy'. We also run seven independent schools, all Ofsted rated 'Good'. It is thought that the Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) provision (The Brunel Academy) will be housed at Parkfield, with arrangements for The Burton Academy to be confirmed.

We have a number of experienced staff who will give their expertise in a variety of different areas, to ensure that the project runs smoothly and in line with the original outcomes of the Department for Education (DfE) investment into MyPlace. Firstly, we have facilities managers who have worked with schools in similar situations, where limited resources mean that obtaining suitable solutions, with best value for money is the norm. Secondly, the Executive Principal has a wide range of experience of working in many areas of education, including alternative provision. We anticipate that we can bring appropriate strategies with regard to teaching and learning, curriculum and behaviour management, all of which can have a positive impact on student engagement. Finally, our school comms team have had much experience in all aspects of Catch22's provision with regard to raising awareness and keeping communications and dialogue as transparent as possible with other stakeholders.

Given that the MyPlace provision at Parkfield was built with funding from the DfE, with the key aim to deliver services to young people, we fully appreciate that the conditions of the grant need to be met. To ensure this happens, in tandem with the new school proposal, we will work with Torbay Council to deliver youth services from MyPlace at times that suit young people and in-line with the grant agreements. The DfE are in discussions with the Council regarding the proposals, and they are expected to agree as long as the Council continues to deliver youth services from the building and site outside of school hours, and at times to suit young people. The current Centre will still be accessible to young people outside of school hours and in the future, the new school buildings will present new opportunities for spaces to be used outside of school hours.

Our high-quality, professional staff will bring out the best in all learners through a personalised approach, incorporating high-quality teaching and nurturing, thus enabling them to build their confidence and overcome barriers to learning. We believe that all learners

have the ability to succeed and make the most of the next stages of their lives and we promote key life skills so that they have the confidence and tools to go on whatever journey they wish.

The planned development of the MyPlace building (Parkfield, Paignton) will enable an aspirational Catch22 educational facility to be offered for the students in our care. It will provide an environment for a variety of learning resources and facilities such as radio broadcasting, car maintenance, catering and construction.

Our commitment to working in partnership with the Torbay Council Youth Trust, whose ethos and values align with Catch22's, will further enhance the support and development of affordable, high quality activities available to young people in Torbay and the wider community.

### **Overview of provision**

In February 2015 it was agreed by Torbay Council that the Torbay School's existing site on Torquay Road was failing to meet the needs of its pupils. The Council made the decision to relocate the school. A range of alternative sites were looked at, with the MyPlace centre at Parkfield in Paignton identified as the preferred site.

It is planned that the move will take place in the summer of 2018, dependant on planning approval, enabling the current site at Preston to be developed as a primary school.

Currently the school consists of three sites and expectation is that this will change to two in the future, one of which would be the current MyPlace Centre. The school currently provides education for students who have been permanently excluded from school. Our remit is to structure the staffing and curriculum appropriately for each separate provision and considerable progress has already been made with Catch22, TDA and the architects in ensuring that the school design will be appropriate and focused on meeting the students' needs.

Regarding the curriculum provision, we aim to ensure that all students are suitably equipped with the appropriate qualifications in English and Maths to enable them to fully access the next steps in their education, whether this is a return to a mainstream setting or into further education. Each learner will also undertake an individualised induction programme designed to integrate them smoothly into school life at The Brunel Academy. In line with our ethos for education, we will ensure that students have the opportunity to obtain vocational qualifications that lead to progression into a variety of jobs or further training. To this end, the following teaching spaces will be provided for in the new building:

- Two science rooms
- Two vocational areas (planned as construction and motor vehicle)
- Food Technology Kitchen
- Art Room
- A café run by the students for business and enterprise learning

In addition, there is a recording studio already in the building, which could be used during the day for opportunities to celebrate students' work, plans are currently in place to develop this radio opportunity with students through partnership working. The access to high quality indoor PE facilities will greatly enhance our sports offerings and during school hours the students will also have opportunities to use the internal climbing wall under supervision. All of these resources will be available to the young people of Torbay outside of school hours via the Youth Trust offerings. The external skate park and BMX track will not be part of the school site and as such will be available to the public at all times as is currently the case.

We feel strongly that all young people, and not just those taught at the Academy, will benefit enormously from these additional resources. In particular, we will work with the Council to promote the use of the vocational spaces after school for those interested in construction or vehicle maintenance. Due care will be given to Health and Safety requirements and the facilities will need to be appropriately staffed at all times. There is great potential for evening classes for students, and it is hoped that we can draw from the experience of local people to help with these activities, for example a local artist running a course for children on drawing and painting the wonderful scenery of Torbay.

In order to ensure that a culture of respect is maintained between all parties, it is vital that an open dialogue with all stakeholders is established. As well as being available to speak to partners at regular meetings, our comms team will encourage the use of social media to convey important messages about the project and to further develop our engagement with others.

We aim to keep everyone informed on the development and progress of the school build. With this in mind our staff attended a meeting of the Paignton Town Community Partnership in October and a public drop in event at MyPlace in November, where the planning drawings were presented. We will also look to improve public access to information, e.g. publish information online and on notice boards.

We will liaise closely with all stakeholders including:

- Local residents to MyPlace and the wider Parkfield site
- Torbay School pupils and their parents/carers
- Local Community Partnership/Paignton Town Community Partnership
- Paignton residents in general, via the local Connexions Office, library and relevant websites
- All schools
- Youth Trust
- Ward Councilors (Cllr Lewis, Cllr Sykes and Cllr Tolchard)

It is important that young people and their parents understand the provision and purpose of the Academy at Parkfield. Therefore, regular opportunities for them to visit the Academy and, where possible, the new buildings will be arranged. A representative from the Youth Trust has been involved with all planning meetings and there will be further opportunities for discussion on the roll out of the facilities in due course. Torbay Council is working with the current building users to help them to find suitable alternative venues for their activity or service. In the future, the new school buildings will present other opportunities for spaces to be used outside of school hours.

## **Youth Trust integration**

We are confident that we can continue to work closely with the Youth Trust and other service users to ensure clarity in relation to our shared vision for the provision of education and other services for the young people in the area. We appreciate the importance that the resource continues to meet the needs of the local community.

We understand that Torbay Council will continue to work with the Youth Trust to deliver youth services on the site and Catch22 welcome the opportunity to work in partnership with them to fully meet the needs of the local young people. Regarding the proposed daily usage of the building for the Youth Trust, the current first floor common room will link to the tea room and will be available for the Youth Trust and other community groups when sports or other open events are held. There will also be a designated multi-purpose space for the Youth Trust to use at all times. We envisage that, as a minimum, all of the current rooms can be used outside of school hours and having a recognised designated Youth Trust space will not only ensure the separate identity of the Youth Trust is maintained but that they will also be in close enough proximity for partnership work with the Academy to be encouraged.

The Youth Trust has some specific ideas on how to ensure that the building and surrounding areas are maintained effectively, being mindful of local residents and other users and the leadership team at the Academy will put rigorous procedures in place in order to limit the impact of poor behaviour. They will also work with residents to quickly resolve any reported problems and prevent future issues. To reduce noise, we will stagger break times, introduce more plants and shrubbery on-site and install suitable play surfaces outside. Spaces between buildings and inside the Academy have been designed to be suitably wide to encourage sensible flow from one place to another and to facilitate our Health & safety requirements. We are aware that the appearance of the new Academy is very important for all users therefore, we will involve parents, students and other young people, as appropriate, in deciding how the school looks. The design team has ensured that there is a turning circle in the plan for students dropped off by taxi, so issues regarding traffic on site are kept to a minimum.

As with all schools, keeping pupils safe is of the upmost importance to the Council and the school. This is why the design team has been briefed to ensure that the openness of the site is maintained, whilst at the same time ensuring the school and its external areas to the rear are secure, whilst being cognisant of the needs of our future neighbours. This will ensure the safeguarding of the young people while they are attending the school.

Catch22 is committed to working in partnership with Torbay Council and the Youth Trust, whose ethos and values align with Catch22's, to enhance and support the development of high quality activities available to young people in Torbay and the wider community.