

Lyde Green Secondary School Provision

This stakeholder update follows the last update from South Gloucestershire Council of 25 August 2021.

We have been working on plans for a new secondary school at Lyde Green for children aged 11 to 16. This is being developed in a partnership between South Gloucestershire Council, the Government's Department for Education, and The Olympus Academy Trust.

The plan was to build the new school and to welcome new students in September 2023. Lyde Green Secondary students would have spent their first year from September 2022 studying in additional facilities at Winterbourne Academy before moving to the new permanent site in Lyde Green in September 2023. Admissions events were organised by the Council and The Olympus Academy Trust during the autumn term to share details of the exciting plans for the new building and the temporary arrangements at Winterbourne.

Unfortunately, current market conditions in the construction industry which are impacting nationally and include significant issues with the supply and cost of building materials and labour have also caused delays to delivery of our local new school building programme. These issues have become more pronounced in recent months, in particular because of the Covid pandemic. These factors mean that the permanent building will not be completed by the date we had planned.

In these circumstances, it is not in the best interests of the young people's education for us to move forward with the opening of the new school in September 2022. Although we are totally committed to delivering the new Lyde Green Secondary School, to meet local demand for school places, we do not want students to be educated in temporary facilities for any longer than necessary.

We are continuing to work with the Regional Schools Commissioner's Office and The Olympus Academy Trust to finalise the plans and funding arrangements to deliver Lyde Green Secondary School. Every effort is being made so that we can confirm the earliest completion and opening date for the permanent school site and of course we will update the community as soon as possible on our progress and potential interim arrangements from September 2023.

In the meantime, we have written to every family who made applications for secondary school places for September 2022 and who indicated the new Lyde Green Secondary School as one of their three preferences. Parents/Carers are being given the opportunity to reconsider their preferences and to inform us of changes before the applications process is completed. That letter will arrive with families from Wednesday 19 January. Our webpage will be updated with project developments:

www.southglos.gov.uk/LydeGreenSchools