



# **SENDAT (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Academies Trust)**

## **Duke of Lancaster**

### **Section 10 Consultation Report**



**April 2021**



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Section 10 Consultation Report has been compiled in respect of our Free School application for Duke of Lancaster School made by SENDAT (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Academies Trust), to aid a decision on whether the Trust and the Secretary of State for Education should enter into a funding agreement to open a new Special Free School in Fakenham.

The report covers the public and open consultation which took place for a six-week period between Monday 22 February 2021 and Sunday 4 April 2021. The report documents the planning, activities and resources that were designed, created and distributed in order to deliver a fully comprehensive and informative consultation regarding the opening of Duke of Lancaster School.

The activities undertaken to create this report are in accordance with the statutory requirements set by the Department for Education.

In establishing the proposal to open Duke of Lancaster School, the Trust has actively engaged with identified key stakeholders in the Fakenham and wider Norfolk area. Through this engagement, the Trust is now fully aware of what it needs to deliver in order to meet expectation and respond to the needs of the community.

The positive comments received from the wide range of stakeholders responding to the consultation endorse the rationale proposed in the Free School Application and strongly demonstrate that there is a real need and an enormous amount of support for the proposed new Duke of Lancaster special school in Fakenham.



## BACKGROUND

Norfolk County Council (NCC) has an ambitious agenda to expand and enhance its resources for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and is investing £120 million to support that agenda.

SENDAT was chosen as NCC's preferred sponsor to open this new special free school in Fakenham. SENDAT's proposal is to open a Special Free School, Duke of Lancaster, in Fakenham in order to meet existing and predicted demand for high quality places for pupils in North Norfolk and the surrounding areas who have autism, complex communication and interaction needs named in their Educational Health Care Plans (EHCPs). Norfolk County Council has set out that there is a need for this school which will enable students to receive their education locally with reduced travel times.

SENDAT is a multi-academy trust whose head office is in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, with a family of special and alternative provision schools currently teaching over 400 students in Suffolk with a wide range of complex special needs. SENDAT's overarching vision is to develop a continuum of provision for children and young people from 5-25 years old which enables the Trust to fully support pupils and parents. This vision is driven by SENDAT's belief that all should have the same right to an excellent education regardless of whether they have additional needs of any kind, and SENDAT are committed to providing this in their range of provision. SENDAT is also committed to working closely with all partners and stakeholders for the benefit of children and young people in its schools and the wider community. There is a key focus on successful transition in and transition out for all students in SENDAT's schools, working closely with parents, special and mainstream primary and secondary schools and FE providers to provide this.

SENDAT believes that high quality education is best achieved when the needs of each individual pupil – social, emotional, spiritual and educational – are considered to be paramount. Through focusing on students as individuals, they aim to tailor challenging and enjoyable educational programmes to directly meet their needs and to truly personalise learning.

The vision for Duke of Lancaster is to develop well-rounded individuals who may be able to re-integrate back into mainstream provision or successfully go forward into post-16 further education. Students will leave the school fully prepared for their next steps including college and the work environment, capable as adults of being independent and productive citizens.

As the school develops, SENDAT will enhance the range of experiences available to Duke of Lancaster students, offering them increasing opportunities for personal, social, intellectual and physical development through its provision.

Duke of Lancaster School is a special free school which provides up to 100 places for children of all gender types in the 5-16 age range with autism or complex communication and interaction needs. A diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is not a condition of



admissions but is expected for the majority of students. Students will have a generally average cognitive ability comparable to their peers in mainstream settings.

The school will provide full time, high quality, specialist teaching and learning and therapeutic support to vulnerable pupils with EHCPs; pupils whose needs typically cannot be adequately supported in mainstream schools.

For a child to be admitted, the school must be named, by a Local Authority, in the child's EHCP.

Parents wishing their children to benefit from our provision should ask their Local Authority to name the school in their child's EHCP.

A local authority can also refer a child to the school to be assessed for an EHCP plan or following a change in the child's circumstances for his or her needs to be assessed or reassessed. Any assessment should be completed within the 20 weeks set out in the SEND Code of Practice. To refer a child in this way requires the agreement of the school's home local authority (Norfolk County Council) if the school is in another local authority, the school and the child's parents.

Children being assessed for an EHCP will be dual registered and return, full-time, to their mainstream school if the local authority decides not to issue an EHCP.

Duke of Lancaster is proud to be at the heart of the Fakenham and North Norfolk learning community.



## SITE FOR DUKE OF LANCASTER SCHOOL

The Duke of Lancaster is currently being built by Norfolk County Council on the site of the former Fakenham Sixth Form College in Highfield Road in Fakenham, Norfolk as shown on the site plan below. Construction work is on schedule to open the new school in January 2022.

A 3D fly-through video animation and a detailed overview of the site and building is available at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUpcLuK9T8I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUpcLuK9T8I)



For further images of the proposed school and to follow progress of the school build, captured on a site camera every 15 minutes, see link to the Duke of Lancaster website: <https://sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster/>

The proposed one-storey building is a new build construction and will therefore be designed specifically to meet the needs of the students and staff. It will have separate teaching areas for the different phases and additionally contain an array of ancillary teaching and



administration rooms plus facilities for separate dining, play, communal occupation and community spaces.



Specialist rooms include:

- Science
- Food Technology
- Art/Design Technology
- PE/Physical Activity Studio
- Library
- Sensory Rooms
- Sensory Play
- Therapy Rooms
- Student Breakout Rooms

There will also be formal hard and soft play areas, a cycle track, outdoor play equipment area, and dedicated outdoor learning spaces.

Duke of Lancaster will open in January 2022, subject to the Secretary of State entering into a funding agreement with the Trust. Before doing this, he will want to be confident the school will be good or better at its first Ofsted inspection, as well as popular and financially viable. As part of that process, the law requires SENDAT to consult with the local community and interested parties on their plans for the school.



## CONSULTATION METHODOLOGY

The Trust devised and implemented a comprehensive Section 10 Statutory Consultation plan which sought to openly engage with the local community and key stakeholders to fulfil the statutory obligation to consult under the Academies Act 2010.

The consultation period ran for a six-week period from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

The consultation questionnaire (see Appendix A) asked for views on the need for a new special school, its vision and location, as well as agreement that the Secretary of State should enter into a funding agreement with the Trust to open and run the proposed school.

The survey was also set up on Microsoft Forms with a link to all of the consultation information and on the Duke of Lancaster website: [www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster](http://www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster)

A comprehensive range of channels to communicate the consultation process were used and a wide range of stakeholders have been given the opportunity and encouraged to comment including:

**Information about the new school, together with the consultation was disseminated via a dedicated webpage on the school website (see Appendix B):**

<https://sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster/consultation/>

This included the Duke of Lancaster Statement of Provision and links to SENDAT Policies, in addition to a recording of the live online consultation event and a recruitment video. The recording of the live online consultation event received 42 views on YouTube, whilst the recruitment video received 105. Between 15<sup>th</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> April, there were 157 webpage hits.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGPQ9IA5ZOQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGPQ9IA5ZOQ)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gv5tvo3s1V8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gv5tvo3s1V8)

**Online questionnaire made available on Duke of Lancaster website:**

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=FyRpO4ffZUmlDQGfo9IE8C8-VT3EukVEthQgllVQCwJUREVLVU1YR1FZRUIGNDVUR1VTTFNKVUc3OC4u>

**A hard copy of online consultation event (pendrive) and questionnaire was also available on request:**

1 of each requested and questionnaire returned in the post.

**Social media platforms (see Appendix C) were used to advertise the consultation and a virtual online public engagement event which was held on 25<sup>th</sup> February:**

Duke of Lancaster School Facebook (16 followers) – 27 people reached, 2 engagements:

<https://www.facebook.com/sendatdukeoflancaster>



SENDAT LinkedIn (25 followers) – 120 impressions, 4 likes, 1 share

[www.linkedin.com/company/sendat/posts/?feedView=all&viewAsMember=true](http://www.linkedin.com/company/sendat/posts/?feedView=all&viewAsMember=true)

SENDAT Twitter (93 followers) – 115 impressions, 9 engagements:

<https://twitter.com/SENDAT2/status/1362773726144692226>

Norfolk Local Offer – Tweet One (878 followers) – 104 impressions, 9 total engagements, 2 likes and 1 retweet: [https://twitter.com/send\\_offer/status/1359485619257376771](https://twitter.com/send_offer/status/1359485619257376771)

Norfolk Local Offer – Tweet Two (878 followers) – 1 share, 2 likes:

[https://twitter.com/send\\_offer/status/1363820842648485889](https://twitter.com/send_offer/status/1363820842648485889)

Norfolk SEND Local Offer Facebook Post – Post One (606 likes, 684 followers on account) – 662 people reached, 8 likes, 2 share, 17 post clicks:

<https://www.facebook.com/sendnorfolk/photos/a.2320072691603619/2874876626123220/>

Norfolk SEND Local Offer Facebook Post – Post Two (as above) – 5 shares, 1 like:

<https://www.facebook.com/sendnorfolk>

**SENDAT press releases, announcing details of the new Duke of Lancaster School and public consultation, sent to journalists at Eastern Daily Press and North Norfolk papers (see Appendix D).**

**Local press announcements (see appendix E) giving details of new Duke of Lancaster School, published Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February, with follow up article on public consultation, published Friday 12 February.** Articles appeared in Eastern Daily Press, Fakenham and Wells Times, Dereham Times and North Norfolk Times. Articles included webpages, contact email address and phone number, together with option to have a hardcopy questionnaire sent to them.

**Emails inviting stakeholders to comment on plans for Duke of Lancaster school (see Appendix F), with links to the consultation webpage and the consultation questionnaire sent to:**

**MPs:**

Duncan Baker (North Norfolk)  
Mr. Richard Bacon (South Norfolk)  
George Freeman (Mid Norfolk)  
Elizabeth Truss (South West Norfolk)  
James Wild (North West Norfolk)  
Jerome Mayhew (Broadland)  
Clive Lewis (Norwich South)  
Chloe Smith (Norwich North)  
Brandon Lewis (Great Yarmouth)

**Norfolk District Council:**

Councillor Jeremy Punchard (Vice Chairman of the Council) (Lancaster South)



Councillor John Rest (Lancaster South)

**Councillors:**

Councillor John Fisher (Cabinet Member for Children’s Services at Norfolk County Council)  
(Thorpe St Andrew North West)

Councillor Tom Fitzpatrick (Walsingham)

**Fakenham Town Council Clerk for distribution onwards to Fakenham Councillors**

**Clerks of Local Parish Councils for distribution onwards:**

South Creake

East Barsham

East Rudham

Kettlestone

Great Ryburgh

**Local Schools and Nurseries:**

Fakenham Infant and Nursery School

Fakenham Junior School

Fakenham Academy

Fakenham Childrens Centre

Sculthorpe Church of England Primary School

**Other Local Stakeholder Organisations:**

Fakenham Medical Practice

Fakenham Cricket Club

Fakenham Squadron ATC

Norfolk Scouts

Norfolk Guides

**Parent/Carers/SEND Networks:**

Family Voice Membership

SENDIASS

National Autistic Society (West Norfolk Branch)

Norfolk SEND Partnership

**SENDAT flyer (see Appendix G) letter drop to 30 local residents and businesses giving details of new school, online consultation event, and link to consultation questionnaire and or request for hard copy.**

**Norfolk County Council Weekly E-Courier (see Appendix H):** consultation event and details included in this weekly communication to all Norfolk’s schools:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/send-policies/send-transformation-programme/new-asd-school-for-north-norfolk> (417 primary schools and 99 secondary schools) including the 14 state-funded special schools in Norfolk: Chapel Green School, Churchill Park Academy,



The Clare School, Fred Nicholson School, Hall School, Harford Manor School, John Grant School, The Parkside School, Pathways College, Sidestrand Hall School, Sheringham Woodfield School, Eaton Hall Specialist Academy, Fen Rivers Academy and The Wherry School.

**Norfolk County Council SEND Transformation e-Newsletter Feb 2021 (see Appendix I)**– consultation event and details. Included a link to SENDAT website and SENDAT full press release. (1976 subscribers)

**Norfolk SENDIASS March 2021 e-Newsletter (see Appendix J)** – consultation event and details sent to database of service users (approx. 1900). Advertised on Facebook and website and then sent to all subscribers (189), forwarded to schools via E-courier, and to the Norfolk Family Information service and Norfolk Family Voice to distribute onwards.

**Norfolk Family Voice February 2021 Newsletter (see Appendix K)** – details included of consultation event and details – sent to full membership of more than 1000 families, 11 of whom had been identified as not being able to access technology, and to whom we offered hard copies (through pendrives) of the public consultation and the questionnaire.

**Norfolk County Council News Release February 2021:**

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/news/2021/02/two-new-special-schools-announce-public-consultations-ahead-of-opening>

**Virtual Online Open Public Consultation Event held on Thursday 25 February 2021:**

Covid restrictions meant that an innovative solution needed to be arranged in order to ensure that appropriate consultation could take place. A virtual online open public consultation event was therefore held on Thursday 25 February, with a presentation by Lawrence Chapman, CEO of SENDAT, and pre-recorded sessions by Sebastian Gasse (Head of Education Participation, Infrastructure and Partnership Service) and Nicki Rider (Senior Adviser SEND & AP Transformation and Commissioning) of Norfolk County Council detailing the Norfolk special education context and how Duke of Lancaster related to this. There was also a pre-recorded session by the Head of School Designate, Rob Speck. The consultation webpage was set up on 29.01.2021 to give the opportunity to pre-register for the event and was widely advertised.

The presentation for the live online public consultation event was recorded so that it could be viewed later by people who were not able to attend the live session - see link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGPQ9IA5Z0Q>

There was an option for people to request a hard copy of the presentations.

There was a live Question and Answer session at the end of the live online consultation event, details are shown below:

**Questions answered during live event, included:**



- **Q:** I am Officer Commanding the Air Cadet Sqn that is based at the site... Our Property Manager is RFCA (Reserve Forces & Cadet Association)...Initially NCC were talking to them about the future of the site overall, but they have failed to respond for the last 6 months or so. Can you urge NCC to contact myself in order to facilitate the discussion please? We are very happy to engage with you of DofE. We have trained instructors / assessors that can help!  
**A:** Subsequent to above, SENDAT contacted NCC and requested that they contact the RFCA directly.
- **Q:** What's the pupil/staff ratio?  
**A:** Class sizes will consist of between 6 and 9 students. We expect to have a teacher and a support assistant for each class. In terms of the pupil/staff ratio, this will be between 1:3 and 1:4.5.
- **Q:** Are classes defined by age or ability?  
**A:** Depending on activity/context, classes will be defined by age at times, and by ability at others. Classes will be tailored as appropriate to the activity/context.
- **Q:** Does non verbal come under communication issues?  
**A:** Yes, non-verbal does come under communication and interaction but will not be part of the expected profile for children and young people attending the Duke of Lancaster. Admissions will be considered on a child-by-child process which is managed by Norfolk County Council.
- **Q:** Are the staff trained in medical issues? For example food allergies, epilepsy etc  
**A:** Yes, all staff across the trust will receive appropriate training based on the profile of need.
- **Q:** Will you have a speech therapist on the staffing team?  
**A:** Speech therapy will be an important part of the offer and, as this profession is classed as health, will be provided through the NHS. SENDAT does have a central therapies team, which includes art, outdoors and occupational therapies. We are not expecting speech and language therapists to be part of the Duke of Lancaster team.
- **Q:** If my child is due to start school September 2021 but not 5 until March 2022, will he need to wait until then to join?  
**A:** We will need to check this query with admissions before confirming the answer to your question.
- **Q:** Will you be taking children in all year groups when you open?  
**A:** When we open, we will not be taking students in Key Stage 4 (year 10 and 11).
- **Q:** What age will you take children?  
**A:** In the first year of opening, students will be in years 1 to 9 (aged between 5 and 14)
- **Q:** As you are planning on opening in 2022, do you have a time when you will be opening up job applications? Also, will the school accommodate any PMLD children/ classes?  
**A:** Job applications will open after Easter 2021. PMLD is not the expectation for the profile of need which Duke of Lancaster will cater for.
- **Q:** If we are already in the process of applying to another school, could we still apply for this school?  
**A:** Absolutely but you will need to speak to your child's EHCP co-ordinator.



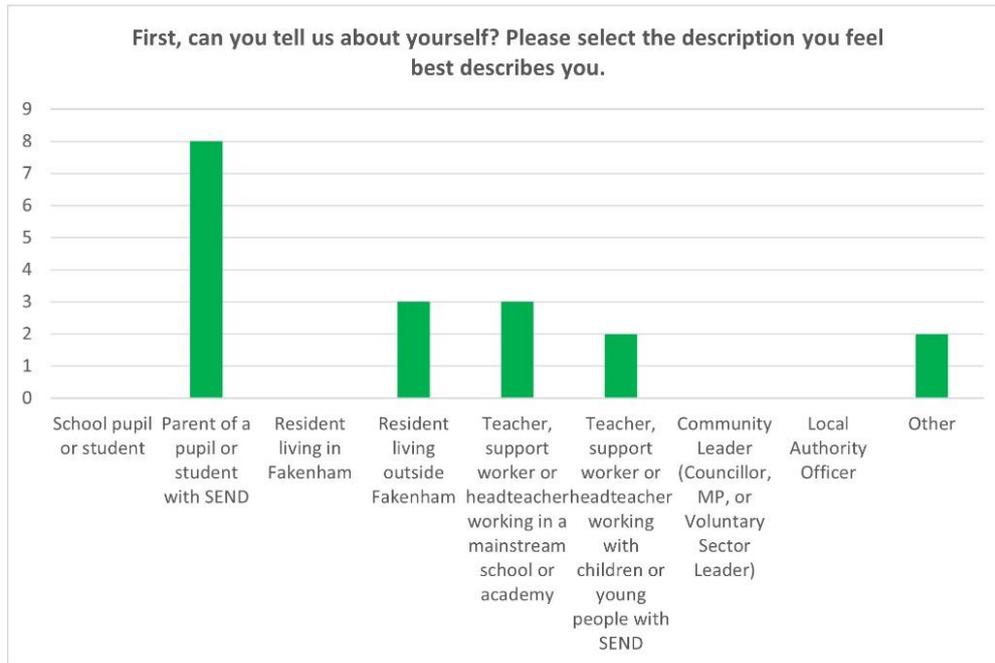
- **Q:** When you open in January will it be for all age groups? Are there any future plans to open up a sixth form KS5 provision?  
**A:** No, when we open, students will be in years 1 to 9 (aged between 5 and 14). There are not any current plans to open up a sixth form. We expect to be working with other providers to support our students to transition to another setting for Key Stage 5.

**Email sent inviting those who registered their interest via the online form to the online consultation event, including links to website and consultation form (see Appendix L).**

## SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION

Despite the wide publication of the consultation, and follow up reminders of the closing date, there were only 17 online consultation questionnaires and 1 hard copy consultation questionnaires. Responses are as follows:

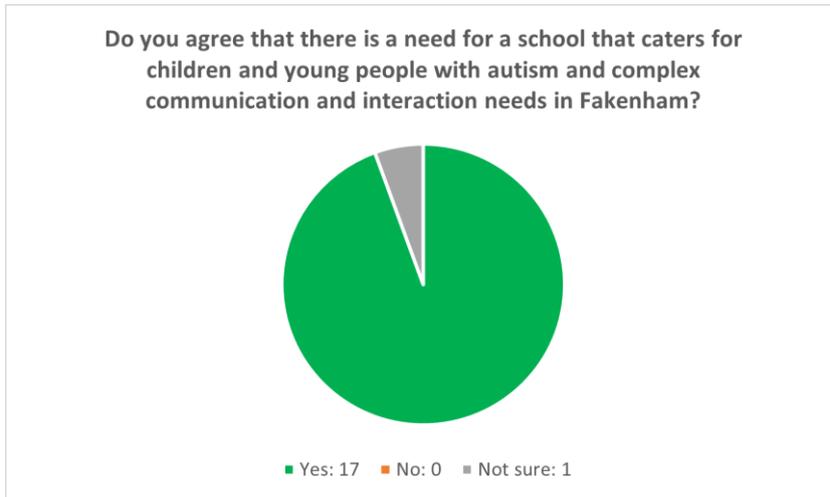
**Question 1: First, can you tell us about yourself? Please select the description you feel best describes you.**



**Question 2: If you have selected the 'Other' option above, please specify how you would describe yourself.**

- 1) Support worker in Fakenham working for a day service supporting adults with Learning Disabilities and Autism from 18+
- 2) Riding for the Disabled Coach with Norfolk Coast RDA based at Walsingham

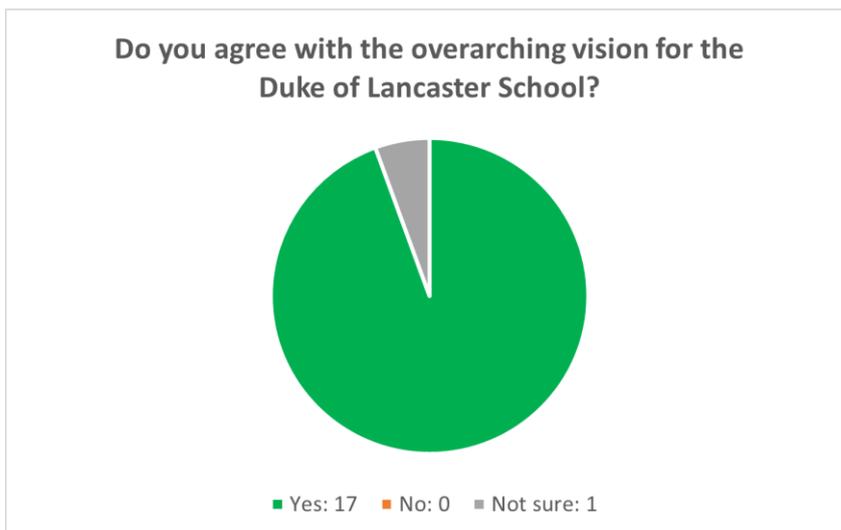
**Question 3: Do you agree that there is a need for a school that caters for children and young people with autism and complex communication and interaction needs in Fakenham?**



**Question 4: Any information you would like to add regarding the need for a special school in Fakenham?**

- 1) There is nowhere close by for children of average or better academic ability outside mainstream education, the SRB at Neatherd cannot take children who consistently need small group education. Fred Nicholson school in Dereham focuses on pupils with learning disabilities
- 2) We really need a school in this area, as the local kids have to travel so far
- 3) No
- 4) A school like this is badly needed in Norwich

**Question 5: Do you agree with the overarching vision for the Duke of Lancaster School?**



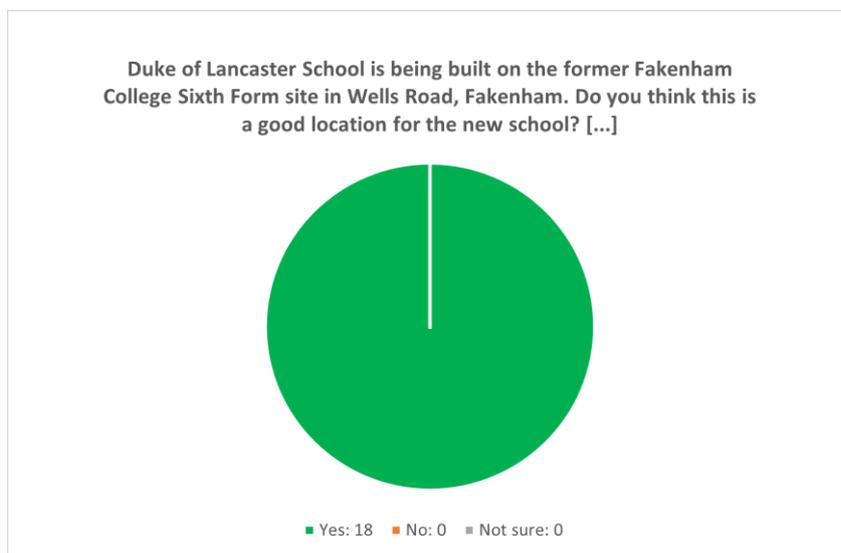
**Question 6: Any information you would like to add regarding the overarching vision for the school, including any suggestions for additional curriculum provision?**

- 1) My experience is that children really benefit from lots of time out of the classroom and learning needs to be much more than just academic style



- 2) Forest school experience
- 3) As the Principal of a mainstream, local and highly inclusive local secondary school we would love to work with staff of the Duke of Lancaster to support as many students as possible, within any school
- 4) No
- 5) Norfolk Coast RDA would be happy to offer students riding. Please see our website <https://norfolkcoastrda.org/>

**Question 7: Duke of Lancaster School is being built on the former Fakenham College Sixth Form site in Wells Road, Fakenham. Do you think this is a good location for the new school? Please note that this consultation is not related to any building or planning applications surrounding the new school.**

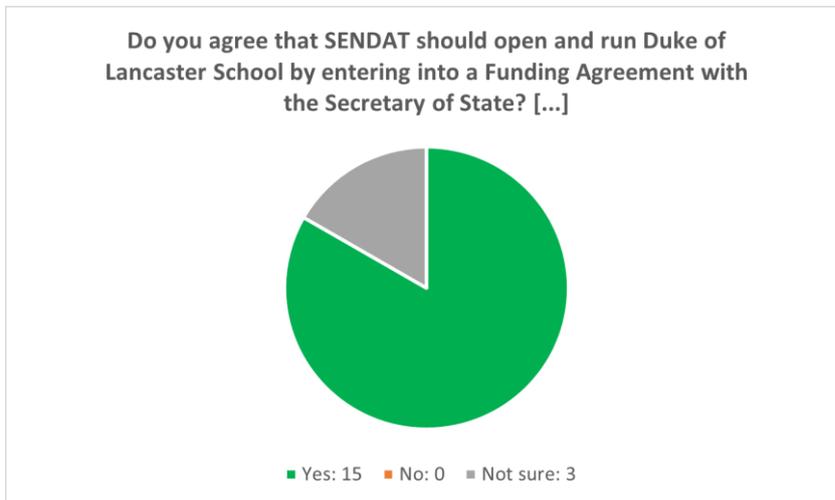


**Question 8: Any further comments on access and location of the new school?**

- 1) Provided the school works in equal partnership with all schools. Due to proximity working closer with Fakenham Academy could be perceived as a preferred partner
- 2) I think the local is great
- 3) No



**Question 9: Do you agree that SENDAT should open and run Duke of Lancaster School by entering into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State? Before Duke of Lancaster School can open, SENDAT will enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education. A copy of the special school supplementary funding agreement can be accessed using the link [www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements)**



**Question 10: Are there any further comments you would like to make about the planned Duke of Lancaster School?**

- 1) If my child is due to start school September 2021 but not 5 until March 2022 will he need to wait until then to join
- 2) It's very needed, we live ten minutes away from the site, my son has to travel over an hour and a half to school at the moment
- 3) Just really hope you listen to the parents of any child with SEND as to what a child needs
- 4) No
- 5) A much needed school as pupils in the area are having to travel large distances every day
- 6) Not big enough! Needs to take more children on roll
- 7) I hope it has the capacity to expand when Norfolk CC realises it needs more ASD school places. Also I hope that you don't intend to exempt yourself from section 41



## RESPONDING TO THE FINDINGS

Questions 4, 6, 8 and 10 of the online questionnaire provided respondents with an opportunity to make further comments. Below are comments judged to require a response.

- 6. Any information you would like to add regarding the overarching vision for the school, including any suggestions for additional curriculum provision?
  1. *“My experience is that children really benefit from lots of time out of the classroom and learning needs to be much more than just academic style”.*
    - The Education Brief for the Duke of Lancaster is currently being finalised. Our vision is to provide students with a broad and balanced holistic curriculum that develops each child’s social, emotional and academic skills and knowledge, including opportunities for outdoor learning. Based on the intended ability profile of students attending the Duke of Lancaster the academic curriculum will mirror key features and expectations of a mainstream school.
  2. *“Forest school experience.”*
    - Please refer to the response to Comment 1
  3. *“As the Principal of a mainstream, local and highly inclusive local secondary school we would love to work with staff of the Duke of Lancaster to support as many students as possible, within any school.”*
    - We intend to forge strong relationships with schools to support students and staff achieve their potential at a local, regional and national level. The Duke of Lancaster will be part of Norfolk’s ‘School 2 School Support’ network to provide advice and support to mainstream schools in meeting the needs of those students relating to communication and interaction. We continue to welcome and actively seek networking opportunities throughout the opening process and beyond.
  4. *“Norfolk Coast RDA would be happy to offer students riding. Please see our website <https://norfolkcoastrda.org/>”*
    - Like the response to Comment 3, we will welcome and seek opportunities to create appropriate links with organisations who can contribute to and enhance the Duke of Lancaster’s offer.
  
- 8. Any further comments on access and location of the new school?
  1. *“Provided the school works in equal partnership with all schools. Due to proximity working closer with Fakenham Academy could be perceived as a preferred partner.”*
    - We will collaborate with all schools in a fair and transparent way. The Duke of Lancaster will be part of the Norfolk ‘School 2 School Support’ group to provide hands-on practical advice and support to mainstream schools and settings within Norfolk. If there are aspects of curriculum other schools can support the Duke of Lancaster in



delivering, for example GCSE option subjects, we will develop arrangements for our students to access these at other schools. These arrangements may be fulfilled through schools local to the Duke of Lancaster or in other areas if appropriate, based on the where the student lives.

- 10. Are there any further comments you would like to make about the planned Duke of Lancaster School?
  1. *“If my child is due to start school September 2021 but not 5 until March 2022 will he need to wait until then to join”.*
    - The Duke of Lancaster is an all through school for children in Year 1 up to Year 11. Your child will be in Year 1 in the September **after** they turn 5, this means they would be eligible for a place in the school starting September 2022. Admissions for the Duke of Lancaster are managed by Norfolk County Council. An application for your child to be reviewed by the admissions panel must be made by their EHCP Coordinator.
  2. *“Just really hope you listen to the parents of any child with SEND as to what a child needs.”*
    - The Duke of Lancaster is part of SENDAT whose vision is to be “The provider of choice for SEND”. A central key feature of our practice, as made explicit in the 2015 SEND Code of Practice, is to ensure children, their parents and young people are involved in discussions and decisions about their individual support and about local provision.
  3. *“Not big enough! Needs to take more children on roll.”*
    - The school will be following an accelerated growth model and will reach capacity in three years with 100 students on roll. The Duke of Lancaster is part of Norfolk County Council’s SEND transformation programme that includes new special schools and specialist resource bases resulting in 500 extra specialist school places being created.
  4. *“I hope it has the capacity to expand when Norfolk CC realises it needs more ASD school places. Also I hope that you don't intend to exempt yourself from section 41.”*
    - Please read response to Comment 3 regarding capacity. Admissions for the Duke of Lancaster will be managed by the Local Authority. Information about the proposed admissions policy has previously been published in the [Statement of Provision](#) available on the school’s website.



## CONCLUSION

SENDAT has considered, in detail, all the responses it has received from its Section 10 Consultation exercise and has decided that, following the statutory consultation process, it wishes to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to establish the new Duke of Lancaster special free school in Fakenham.

In making this decision, the Trust is mindful of all feedback from stakeholders and the overwhelmingly positive feedback received from parents/carers and educators of students with the particular needs that the proposed free school would educate, which supports and endorses the fact that the Trust has the necessary skills and experience to address the needs of SEN students and that in addition, this is a much needed and widely supported provision in the community.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SENDAT would like to thank all the stakeholders who engaged in this consultation, took time to complete the consultation questionnaire, visited the website and attended our virtual online public consultation event. Your responses, comments and feedback were all gratefully received.

## NEXT STEPS

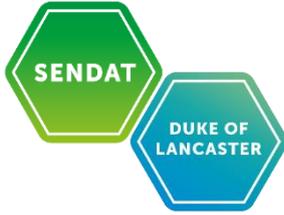
As a result of this exercise, it is recommended that:

- This report is reviewed and approved by the SENDAT Board of Trustees;
- Identify categories with no response, such as local councillors and engage more fully with them;
- (Plus any other recommendations by SENDAT Trustees after review on 14.04.21)



## APPENDICES

### Appendix A: Consultation Questionnaire



#### **Duke of Lancaster School – Section 10 Consultation**

SENDAT (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Academies Trust) is delighted to launch its Section 10 consultation in relation to its new Special Free School, the Duke of Lancaster School. The Duke of Lancaster School is a brand new, modern specialist learning environment, currently being built in Fakenham. When it opens in January 2022, the school will have capacity to take up to 100 children and young people, aged between 5 and 16, with autism and complex communication and interaction needs. All of our students will be provided with a high-quality education which will be designed to meet their individual education needs.

As part of the process of opening a new school, SENDAT is legally required to hold a consultation exercise (under Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010) to determine whether the Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Department for Education.

The consultation will operate online as well as through a virtual consultation event (see details below). This enables parents/carers and pupils, local residents, staff and governors from local schools, parents, councillors, community groups, other local authorities and any other interested parties to learn more about The Duke of Lancaster School and SENDAT and to share their views.

This is an important step and an exciting time for us all as we embark on our journey to opening in January 2022 and forging links with our new community. We are looking forward to listening to your views and working with you to provide this new Special School.

The consultation period for Duke of Lancaster School will run from **22<sup>nd</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021**.

All interested parties are warmly invited to attend our virtual online public consultation event, to hear about us and the new school. Date and time: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00-12:00. You can book a place to attend here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/duke-of-lancaster-school-section-10-consultation-online-event-tickets-142368051675>. If you are unable to attend live, this will be available on our website [www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster/consultation](http://www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster/consultation) and Facebook page [www.facebook.com/sendatdukeoflancaster](https://www.facebook.com/sendatdukeoflancaster) after the event for the duration of the consultation period.

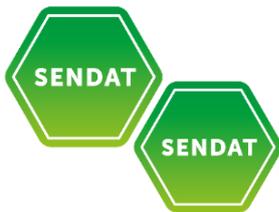
We would be grateful if you could respond to the consultation by filling in the online questionnaire available on our website [www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster/consultation](http://www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster/consultation). You may be interested in visiting this website before completing this questionnaire for more information about Duke of Lancaster School.

Alternatively, please complete the questionnaire attached and return via post to:



Section 10 Consultation,  
SENDAT, ASK House, 2 Northgate Avenue, Bury St Edmunds, IP32 6BB

When completing this questionnaire, you understand that your views can be given anonymously and that no personal data will be collected unless you would like to join the mailing list for further information. Your views will be shared anonymously with other third parties, namely the Department for Education as part of their reporting requirements, but no personal data will be shared. We will only store information for as long as necessary and dispose of your information securely when no longer required. For more information about how SENDAT use your data, please view our privacy policy using the link [www.sendat.academy/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/005-2020-Data-Protection-policy-and-privacy-notice.pdf](http://www.sendat.academy/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/005-2020-Data-Protection-policy-and-privacy-notice.pdf)



### **Duke of Lancaster School – Section 10 Consultation 2021**

To take part in the consultation, please answer the following questions:

**1) First, can you tell us about yourself? Please tick the description you feel best describes you.**

- School pupil or student
- Parent of a pupil or student with SEND
- Resident living in Fakenham
- Resident living outside Fakenham
- Teacher, support worker or headteacher working in a mainstream school or academy
- Teacher, support worker or headteacher working with children or young people with SEND
- Community Leader (Councillor, MP or Voluntary Sector leader)
- Local Authority officer
- Other, please specify.....

**2) Do you agree that there is a need for a school that caters for children and young people with autism and complex communication and interaction needs in Fakenham?**

- Yes
- No
- Not sure



Any information you would like to add regarding the need for a special school in Fakenham?

**3) Do you agree with the overarching vision for the Duke of Lancaster school?**

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Any information you would like to add regarding the overarching vision for the school, including any suggestions for additional curriculum provision?

**4) Duke of Lancaster School is being built on the former Fakenham College Sixth Form site in Wells Road, Fakenham. Do you think this is a good location for the new school?**

Please note that this consultation is not related to any building or planning applications surrounding the new school.

- Yes
- No (please explain why in the box below)
- Not sure

Any further comments on access and location of the new school?

**5) Do you agree that SENDAT should open and run Duke of Lancaster School by entering into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State?**



Before Duke of Lancaster School can open, SENDAT will enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education. A copy of the special school supplementary funding agreement can be accessed using the link [www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements)

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

**6) Are there any further comments you would like to make about the planned Duke of Lancaster School?**

**Thank you for completing our Section 10 Consultation questionnaire.**

If you would like to stay updated with developments of Duke of Lancaster School, please provide your contact information below:

Name.....

Organisation.....

Town and postcode.....

Contact email address.....

For more information about how SENDAT use your data, please view our privacy policy using the link [www.sendat.academy/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/005-2020-Data-Protection-policy-and-privacy-notice.pdf](http://www.sendat.academy/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/005-2020-Data-Protection-policy-and-privacy-notice.pdf)

## Consultation

[Home](#) > [Consultation](#)

### The consultation for Duke of Lancaster School, the new Special School in Fakenham, opens on February 22nd

There will be a live Virtual Open Consultation Event on Thursday 25th February, 10.00-12.00 held through Teams, led by the CEO of SENDAT Lawrence Chapman. Key Norfolk County Council representatives will speak. See link below to register

There will be a chance to ask questions.

**The consultation has now finished**

[Download Statement of Provision pdf click here](#)



#### Consultation meeting

The recording of the consultation meeting held 25-02-21 is viewable below.

**Duke of Lancaster Consultation Leadership- Head Of School Rob Speck**

My vision for the Duke of Lancaster School:

- Safe community and environment for all
- Exceptional trusting relationships between staff, pupils and families will be a cornerstone of our success
- High quality holistic, ambitious and carefully planned curriculum that places the individual and their voice at the center of all choices made.
- A range of opportunities to learn and develop beyond the classroom through a choice of new experiences that enhance personal, social, physical and intellectual skills and knowledge.
- Evidence based research at the core of our practice

Watch on [YouTube](#)

#### Recruitment

**SENDAT Duke of Lancaster 18.2.21 Welcome by Head of School - Rob Speck**

Watch on [YouTube](#)

[Vacancies will be on SENDAT Jobs page](#)

#### Frequently Asked Questions.....

- ▶ [What age of students will the school take in January 2022?](#)
- ▶ [When will jobs be advertised?](#)
- ▶ [How can I ask a question?](#)
- ▶ [I don't have access to a computer](#)
- ▶ [I would like a paper copy of the feedback questionnaire](#)
- ▶ [Admissions](#)

#### Other Links

- [Admissions](#)
- [Statement of Provision](#)
- [SENDAT Policies](#)
- [Latest News](#)
- [Site Over view](#)

**Consultation feedback - The Consultation has closed but if you have other feedback please do contact us**



## Appendix C: Social Media Posts

### Duke of Lancaster Facebook

**Duke of Lancaster**  
Published by Hannah Cushney · 19 February · 🌐

We recently featured in the EDP after announcing information about the six-week public consultation for Duke of Lancaster School in Fakenham.

Please have a read of the article to find out more:  
<https://www.edp24.co.uk/.../consultation-for-new-norfolk...>

The consultation period will open on 22nd February and close on 4th April. The consultation will include an online survey and a free online event which will be held 10:00-12:00 on 25th February.

A link to register your interest in the Duke of Lancaster School consultation is available at [www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster](http://www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster). A link to book a place to attend the online event and a link to the online survey will be available on the website from 22nd February.



EDP24.CO.UK  
**Community asked to have their say on new special school**  
People are being asked to share their views on the new Norfolk spe...

27 People reached      2 Engagements      [Boost post](#)

👍 Like      💬 Comment      ➦ Share

Comment as Duke of Lancaster  
Press Enter to post.

### SENDAT LinkedIn

**SENDAT**  
25 followers  
1mo · Edited · 🌐

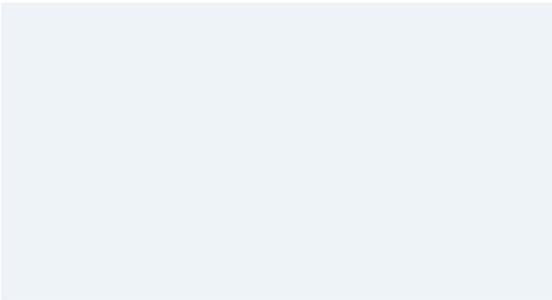
We recently featured in the EDP after announcing information about the six-week public consultation for Duke of Lancaster School in Fakenham.

Please have a read of the article to find out more: <https://lnkd.in/gBqZ92t>

The consultation period will open on 22nd February and close on 4th April. The consultation will include an online survey and a free online event which will be held 10:00-12:00 on 25th February.

A link to register your interest in the Duke of Lancaster School consultation is available at <https://lnkd.in/gwq7tCP>. A link to book a place to attend the online event and a link to the online survey will be available on the website from 22nd February.

#newfreeschool #fakenham #fakenhamnews



Community asked to have their say on new special school  
edp24.co.uk · 2 min read

👍 4

👍 Like      💬 Comment

Be the first to comment on this

Organic impressions: 120 Impressions      [Hide stats](#) ⤴

Organic stats 📊  
Targeted to: All followers

|                 |             |                           |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| 120 Impressions | 4 Reactions | 15.83% Click-through rate |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------|

### SENDAT Twitter

#### Tweet activity

**SENDAT** @SENDAT2  
Information about the six-week public consultation (22 February to 4 April) for Duke of Lancaster School in Fakenham recently featured in the @EDP24

You can register your interest in the consultation here:  
<http://www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster>

[https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/education/consultation-for-new-norfolk-specialist-school-7321568 ...](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/education/consultation-for-new-norfolk-specialist-school-7321568...)

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Impressions       | 178 |
| Total engagements | 9   |
| Link clicks       | 5   |
| Detail expands    | 4   |



## Norfolk Local Offer Twitter Post One

### ✕ Tweet Analytics

**Norfolk Local Offer** @send\_offer  
 Plans are progressing for @NorfolkCC's new special schools as part of its £120 million programme to transform special education.  
 To register for the consultation:  
<https://sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster/> ...  
 For more information:  
[consultation@dukeoflancaster.sendat.academy](mailto:consultation@dukeoflancaster.sendat.academy) or call 01284 717872 pic.twitter.com/USpZqaWB3y

Impressions 104  
times people saw this Tweet on Twitter

Total engagements 9  
times people interacted with this Tweet

Detail expands 4  
times people viewed the details about this Tweet

Profile clicks 3  
number of clicks on your name, @handle, or profile photo

Media engagements 2  
number of clicks on your media counted across videos, vines, gifs, and images

## Norfolk Local Offer Twitter Post Two

**Norfolk Local Offer** @send\_offer · Feb 22  
 The 6-week public consultation for the Duke of Lancaster School in Fakenham is now open! Express your views and ask questions about this new special school due to open January 2022  
 Consultation closes Sunday 4th April  
 Complete the online survey: [sendat.academy/dukeoflancaste...](https://sendat.academy/dukeoflancaste...)  
 1 retweet 2 likes



## Norfolk Local Offer Facebook Post One

Post Details

**Norfolk SEND Local Offer**  
10 February at 12:53 · 🌐

Plans are progressing for Norfolk County Council's new special schools as part of its £120 million programme to transform special education.

🔗 To register for the consultation: <https://sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster/>  
 ⓘ For more information: [consultation@dukeoflancaster.sendat.academy](mailto:consultation@dukeoflancaster.sendat.academy) or call 01284 717872

**Newsflash!**

The new special school under construction in Fakenham has been named as the **Duke of Lancaster School** with **Rob Speck** appointed as Head of School.

6-week public consultations will begin on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February and close on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April. These aim to give local people the chance to express their views and ask questions about a range of issues including plans for the site, access and transport, how the school will operate within the local community and the vision and ethos. This includes an online survey and an online event open to all on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 10am-12pm. Places for this can be booked via SENDAT Academy.

👍 Get more likes, comments and shares  
When you boost this post, you'll show it to more people.

662 People reached      30 Engagements      [Boost Post](#)

👤 Kristina Kristina, Debra Oldman and 6 others      2 shares

👍 Like      💬 Comment      ➦ Share      🌐

**Performance for your post**

**662** People Reached

**13** Likes, Comments & Shares 📊

|            |           |             |
|------------|-----------|-------------|
| 10 Likes   | 8 On Post | 2 On Shares |
| 0 Comments | 0 On Post | 0 On Shares |
| 3 Shares   | 2 On Post | 1 On Shares |

**17** Post Clicks

|               |                 |                  |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 3 Photo views | 6 Link clicks 📊 | 8 Other Clicks 📊 |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|

**NEGATIVE FEEDBACK**

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 0 Hide post      | 0 Hide all posts |
| 0 Report as spam | 0 Unlike Page    |

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

## Norfolk Local Offer Facebook Post two

**Norfolk SEND Local Offer**  
22 February · 🌐

🔥 The 6-week public consultation for the Duke of Lancaster School in Fakenham is now open! Express your views and ask questions about this new special school due to open January 2022.

🕒 Consultation closes Sunday 4th April

💬 Complete the online survey:  
<https://sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster/consultation/>

📅 There is also an online event open to all on Thursday 25th February, 10am-12pm which can be booked the same link

SENDAT.ACADEMY

**SENDAT Duke of Lancaster – SENDAT Duke of Lancaster**

Welcome to our new Duke of Lancaster website. Whether you are a prospective parent, prospective staff member or just an interested...

👍 1      5 shares

👍 Like      💬 Comment      ➦ Share



## APPENDIX D: SENDAT Press Releases

**PRESS RELEASE – EMBARGOED FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL W/C 08.02.2021**

### **Exciting new announcements for Fakenham special school**

Plans are progressing at speed for a new special school in Fakenham with the confirmation of its new name, the appointment of its new headteacher, and a public consultation.

The school will be run by the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Academies Trust (SENDAT) and is being built on the site of the former Fakenham Sixth Form College in Wells Road by Norfolk County Council as part of its £120 million programme to transform special education.

It will be a modern specialist learning environment for up to 100 children and young people, aged between 5 and 16, with autism and complex communication and interaction needs.

SENDAT is pleased to announce the new school will be named Duke of Lancaster School. The trust was keen the name of the school had a local narrative with which students, parents and the local community can identify. The town of Fakenham has strong links to the title of Duke of Lancaster, with the official name of Fakenham Lancaster being given to the town in 1377 when John of Gaunt, the Duke of Lancaster, was given the Manor of Fakenham. John of Gaunt was the founder of the House of Lancaster which ruled England until the War of the Roses. The Duke of Lancaster title is already used by Fakenham Town Council; the town's district wards are called Lancaster North and Lancaster South.

The trust is also very pleased to announce the new headteacher will be Robert Speck, former Vice Principal and Head of Secondary at The Wherry School in Norwich. Robert has spent the last four years at The Wherry School, which is a special school for high functioning autistic children and young people. Prior to this, he spent over a decade working in mainstream secondary education on the North Norfolk coast which included leadership roles such as Vice Principal and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator.

Robert will start his role in April and, with SENDAT, will work closely with Norfolk County Council, parents and carers of prospective students, local schools, and the community, and all other stakeholders, to plan for the opening of the new school in January 2022.

Speaking of his appointment, Robert commented: "My experiences have underlined the high demand for specialist provision for children and young people who are able to access the national curriculum but require additional flexibility and a specialist environment to thrive. The opportunity to help lead the creation of this at Duke of Lancaster School was very appealing and I am thrilled to have been appointed as Head of School.

"I am proud to live in Norfolk and to have been given the honour of helping to create a school that will have an exceptional reputation. I feel closely aligned with the vision and values of SENDAT. Their commitment to ensuring all children have access to quality education deeply resonates with me."

Robert spoke of his aspirations for the new school: "My vision for Duke of Lancaster School is to create a calm, safe and happy environment where everyone treats each other with kindness and respect. Children and young people who attend Duke of Lancaster School will receive a high quality holistic, ambitious and thoughtfully planned curriculum that places the individual and their voice at the centre of all choices and provides students with the social, emotional and academic skills and knowledge required to enable freedom of choice and independence in adult life."



Lawrence Chapman, CEO of SENDAT added: “I am delighted that SENDAT can support the development of new specialist provision in Fakenham working in partnership with Norfolk County Council. We are committed to supporting Norfolk’s transformational programme and working with parents/carers and young people to develop the specialist resources they need. SENDAT is entirely focused on specialist provision in the East of England. We will be further developing the website over the next few weeks and months to share information as it is available.

Duke of Lancaster School will provide an offer that is consistent with our other schools including our SENDAT 20 enrichment programme, curriculum pathways, Trauma Informed practice, use of outdoor learning and much more.

I would also like to give thanks to the work of architects and designers within NPS who have gone the extra mile to give Duke of Lancaster School a building that will be fit for purpose and what these children and young people deserve.”

The six-week public consultation, known as a Section 10 consultation, will open on Monday 22 February and close on Sunday 4 April. It will include an online survey, which will be made available at [www.sendat.academy](http://www.sendat.academy) from Monday 22 February, and a free online event open to all. The online event will be held from 10:00am to 12:00pm Thursday 25 February. You can book a place to attend at [www.sendat.academy](http://www.sendat.academy)

The consultation and online event aim to give local people including parents, residents, community groups, school leaders, parent/carer organisations and others, the chance to express their views, ask questions, and hear from SENDAT and Norfolk County Council about plans for the site, access and transport, how the school will operate within the local community, how admissions will work, and the vision and ethos of the new school.

For further information about the consultation or to request a hard copy of the online consultation event or questionnaire, please email [consultation@dukeoflancaster.sendat.academy](mailto:consultation@dukeoflancaster.sendat.academy) or call 01284 717872.

Admissions for all special schools are arranged through Norfolk County Council. If this school is possibly suitable for your child, your Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) co-ordinator will talk to you about the setting as part of the local options. To find out more log onto this page [www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer/education-and-training-0-25/admissions-to-specialist-schools](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer/education-and-training-0-25/admissions-to-specialist-schools)

Cllr John Fisher, cabinet member for Children’s Services at Norfolk County Council said: “It really is exciting to see how much progress is being made to open this new school, despite all the challenges posed by Covid-19.

“Our transformation programme is dedicated to providing 500 more specialist places for children with SEND needs in both special schools and within mainstream settings enabling children and young people wherever possible to attend school close to home, within their communities, and without the need to spend long periods of time travelling between home and school.

“We are really looking forward to working with SENDAT and I feel confident this school will be a real asset to the North Norfolk area and a fantastic place for children to get the right education so they can fulfil their goals for the future.”



R G Carter, the appointed contractor, started laying the foundations on site in January 2021. Construction is expected to complete in Autumn 2021.

[For further details about Duke of Lancaster school, and to follow progress of the new build, please see: www.sendat.academy](http://www.sendat.academy)

**ENDS**

**Attachments: Photos/Images: Robert Speck/ CGI External Image/ Duke of Lancaster School site**



Above - Robert Speck



Above - NPS Group's proposed visual for Duke of Lancaster School



Above - Duke of Lancaster site, January 2021

**Notes for editors:**

**SENDAT**

SENDAT is a multi-academy trust in special education and specialist provision in the eastern region. Its vision is to develop a continuum of provision for children and young people, aged between 5 and 25, which enables the trust to fully support pupils and parents. This vision is driven by SENDAT's belief that all should have the same right to an excellent education regardless of whether they have additional needs of any kind, and SENDAT are committed to providing this in their range of provision. SENDAT is also committed to working closely with all partners and stakeholders for the benefit of children and young people in its schools and the wider community. There is a key focus on successful transition in and transition out for all students in SENDAT's schools. SENDAT work closely with parents, special and mainstream primary and secondary schools and FE providers to provide this. [www.sendat.academy](http://www.sendat.academy)

For further information contact Lawrence Chapman, CEO of SENDAT: 01284 717870/  
[fakenham@sendat.academy](mailto:fakenham@sendat.academy)



## **PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Public invited to have their say on plans for new specialist school in Fakenham**

Community views are being sought as part of a consultation for a new specialist school, named as Duke of Lancaster School, set to open in January 2022.

The school will be run by the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Academies Trust (SENDAT) and is being built on the site of the former Fakenham Sixth Form College, in Wells Road, as part of Norfolk County Council's £120 million programme to transform special education. SENDAT's current family of schools includes Priory School in Bury St Edmunds, Stone Lodge Academy in Ipswich and Chalk Hill in Sudbury. Its vision is to offer a continuum of specialist and alternative provision for children and young people which is focussed on achieving the best possible student outcomes whilst fully supporting students and their parent/carers.

When open, Duke of Lancaster School will provide a modern learning environment for up to 100 children and young people, aged between 5 and 16, with autism and complex communication and interaction needs.

Lawrence Chapman, CEO of SENDAT, commented: "I am delighted that SENDAT can support the development of the new specialist provision in Fakenham working in partnership with Norfolk County Council. We are committed to supporting Norfolk's transformational programme and working with parents/carers and young people to develop the specialist resources they need. SENDAT is entirely focused on specialist provision in the East of England. We will be further developing our website over the next few weeks and months to share information as it is available.

Duke of Lancaster School will provide an offer that is consistent with our other schools, including our SENDAT 20 enrichment programme, curriculum pathways, Trauma Informed practice, use of outdoor learning and much more.

I would also like to give thanks to the work of architects and designers we have worked with who have gone the extra mile to give Duke of Lancaster School a building that will be fit for purpose and what these children and young people deserve."

As part of the process of opening the new school, SENDAT is required to run a six-week public consultation, under Section 10 of the Academies Act, which will open on Monday 22 February and close on Sunday 4 April. It will include an online survey and a free online event open for all to attend 10:00am to 12:00pm on Thursday 25 February. The online survey and a link to book a place to attend the online event will be made available at [www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster](http://www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster) from Monday 22 February.

The consultation and online event aim to give local people including parents, residents, community groups, school leaders, parent/carer organisations and others, the chance to express their views, ask questions, and hear from SENDAT and Norfolk County Council about plans for the site, access and transport, how the school will operate within the local community, how admissions will work, and the vision and ethos of the new school.

For further information about the consultation or to request a hard copy of the online consultation event or questionnaire, please email [consultation@dukeoflancaster.sendat.academy](mailto:consultation@dukeoflancaster.sendat.academy) or call 01284 717872.



Admissions for all special schools are arranged through Norfolk County Council. If this school is possibly suitable for your child, your Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) co-ordinator will talk to you about the setting as part of the local options. To find out more, visit this page [www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer/education-and-training-0-25/admissions-to-specialist-schools](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer/education-and-training-0-25/admissions-to-specialist-schools)

R G Carter, the appointed contractor, started laying the foundations on site in January 2021. Construction is expected to complete in Autumn 2021.

For further details about Duke of Lancaster School, and to follow progress of the new build, please see [www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster](http://www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster)

## ENDS

**Attachments: Photos/Images: Duke of Lancaster site/ CGI External Image**



Above – Concrete being poured at the Duke of Lancaster site, February 2021



Above – NPS Group's proposed visual for Duke of Lancaster School

## Notes for editors:

**SENDAT**



SENDAT is a multi-academy trust in special education and specialist provision in the eastern region. Its vision is to develop a continuum of provision for children and young people, aged between 5 and 25, which enables the trust to fully support pupils and parents. This vision is driven by SENDAT's belief that all should have the same right to an excellent education regardless of whether they have additional needs of any kind, and SENDAT are committed to providing this in their range of provision. SENDAT is also committed to working closely with all partners and stakeholders for the benefit of children and young people in its schools and the wider community. There is a key focus on successful transition in and transition out for all students in SENDAT's schools. SENDAT work closely with parents, special and mainstream primary and secondary schools and FE providers to provide this.

[www.sendat.academy](http://www.sendat.academy)

[www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster](http://www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster)

For further information contact Lawrence Chapman, CEO of SENDAT: 01284 717870/  
[information@dukeoflancaster.sendat.academy](mailto:information@dukeoflancaster.sendat.academy)

News

news

Fish restaurant plans



Gurneys has applied for planning permission to build a restaurant alongside its fish shop at Drove Orchards, Thornham. Picture: CHRIS BISHOP

A new fish restaurant is set to open on the Norfolk coast road.

Mike Gurney has applied to extend Gurneys Fish Box at Drove Orchards, at Thornham, to create an open kitchen, seating area and bar. In a planning application to West Norfolk council, he says the new restaurant will create five new jobs, taking the total on his premises to nine. A decision is expected next month. Drove Orchards has grown from a farm shop off the A149 into a leisure destination with lifestyle shopping, nursery, fishmonger, two restaurants including a pizzeria in a yurt and a children's play area. Mr Gurney, who set his business up when he began farming oysters in the tidal creeks 40 years ago, has branches at Thornham and Burnham Market.

Power tools stolen

A nail gun, drills and saws were among a large quantity of power tools stolen during a shed burglary.

Police are seeking witnesses after power tools in cases marked with white marker pen were stolen overnight in a shed burglary in Blythburgh. It happened between 11.30pm on Tuesday, January 19 and 11.30pm on Wednesday, January 20 after entry was forced to a wooden shed in the garden of a home. A large quantity of power tools were stolen, including drills, circular saws, a nail gun, air tools, a track saw, a Makita belt sander and a 1980s Unimat lathe. A police spokesman said: "The description of the contents was written on the cases with white marker pen and police would like to hear from anyone who might have seen these tools for sale anywhere or who may have been offered any tools matching this description."

Information to Suffolk Police, quoting crime reference number 37/3753/21, via 101.



The Duke of Lancaster site, in January, as the foundations are laid



Picture: SENDAT

# New SEND school lays foundations and reveals new headteacher

AARON McMILLAN  
Aaron.McMillan@eastcoast.co.uk

A new school for children with special educational needs has revealed its new headteacher and when it will open.

The new SENDAT school in Fakenham has begun to lay its foundations, named its headteacher and announced when they hope to open. The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Academies Trust is being built on the site of the former Fakenham Sixth Form College on Wells Road. R G Carter, the appointed contractor, started laying the foundations on-site in January, with plans to open the site in January 2022. The modern specialist learning environment is part of Norfolk County Council's £120 million programme to transform special education. The school will be named Duke of Lancaster School, a nod to the market town's past with the official name of Fakenham Lancaster being given to the town in 1377. The Duke of Lancaster title is



Former vice-principal and head of secondary at The Wherry School in Norwich, Robert Speck, will be the school's headteacher. Picture: SENDAT

already used by Fakenham Town Council and the town's district wards are called Lancaster North and Lancaster South. The school will cater for up to 100 children and young people, aged between five and 16, with

autism and complex communication and interaction needs. The trust also announced that former vice-principal and head of secondary at The Wherry School in Norwich, Robert Speck, will be

the school's headteacher. Mr Speck said: "The opportunity to help lead the creation of this at Duke of Lancaster School was very appealing and I am thrilled to have been appointed as Head of School. "My vision for Duke of Lancaster School is to create a calm, safe and happy environment where everyone treats each other with kindness and respect." He has spent over a decade working in secondary education on the North Norfolk coast which included leadership roles such as special educational needs and disabilities coordinator. Cabinet member for Children's Services at Norfolk County Council, John Fisher, said: "It really is exciting to see how much progress is being made to open this new school, despite all the challenges posed by Covid-19. "We are really looking forward to working with SENDAT and I feel confident this school will be a real asset to the North Norfolk area and a fantastic place for children to get the right education so they can fulfil their goals for the future." Construction is expected to complete in Autumn 2021.

News

# Community is asked to have its say on new special school

People have been asked to share their views on a new complex needs school as a six-week consultation begins.

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Academies Trust (SENDAT) is holding a public consultation for Fakenham's new Duke of Lancaster School.

The school, which is being built on the site of the former Fakenham Sixth Form College on Wells Road, wants to hear from parents, residents and community groups on their views and provide a chance for them to ask questions.

There will also be information on access and transport, how the school will operate within Fakenham, how admissions will work and the vision and ethos of the school.

AARON MCMILLAN  
Aaron.McMillan@eastcoast.co.uk

The consultation will run from February 22 until April 4. It will include an online survey and a free online two-hour event on February 25.

The school, which laid its foundation last month, is part of Norfolk County Council's £120m programme to transform special education.

Norfolk county councillor for Fakenham Tom Fitzpatrick said: "I was very keen to see a much-needed school to meet the needs of young people with autism and other special educational needs provided on the site."

"I see the nearly £25m cost of this school as a real investment in the town and its young people and



An artist's impression of what the new school in Fakenham could look like



Picture: R G CARTER

am really pleased to have been able to be a part of making this happen."

Set to open in January 2022, the Duke of Lancaster School will provide a modern learning environment for up to 100 children and young people, aged between five and 16, with autism and complex communication and interaction needs.

Chief executive of SENDAT

Lawrence Chapman said: "We are committed to supporting Norfolk's transformational programme and working with parents/carers and young people to develop the specialist resources they need."

"We will be further developing our website over the next few weeks and months to share information as it is available."

The online survey and a link to book a place to attend the online event can be found at [sendat.academy/dukeoflanca](http://sendat.academy/dukeoflanca)

For further information or to request a hard copy of the online consultation event or questionnaire, please email [consultation@dukeoflanca](mailto:consultation@dukeoflanca), sendat.academy or call 01284 717872.

# WIN A HOLIDAY HOME FOR A YEAR

RICHARDSON'S  
CONCIERGE  
HOLIDAY HOME OWNERSHIP

We have joined forces with Richardson's Concierge, situated in Hemsby on the beautiful Norfolk coast, to offer you and your family the opportunity to win your very own holiday home for a year...

... and the freedom to explore Norfolk, whenever it suits you!

Richardson's Concierge believe that everyone should be making the most of now and with this amazing prize you will be able to leave the world behind and escape to your personal corner of the beautiful Norfolk coast at a moment's notice. With a year's exclusive use of your very own holiday home this prize offers you the opportunity to explore beautiful coastline and countryside in every season, make the most of the great activities on offer at Richardson's Hemsby Beach Holiday Park and simply relax and unwind. Richardson's Concierge strive to give all their holiday home owners everything they need to create memorable and relaxing retreats, whenever they choose to visit.



## HOW TO ENTER

You can enter as many times as you like by simply collecting 40 tokens from this newspaper or any listed below. Entry forms will be published on the last Friday of each month from February to October.

Tokens will be published every day from Monday 18 January through to Saturday 30 October 2021.

HERE'S TODAY'S  
FREE TOKEN



Eastern Daily Press Evening News Dereham Times Beccles & Bury Fakenham Wells Mercury Wymondley News The Journal

COMPETITION TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Prize Draw closes at 5pm Sunday, 26 November 2021. Any entries received after these dates will not be accepted. There will be one winner and one prize. The winner will be notified within 28 days of the end date of the promotion. No cash alternative is available. The prize draw is open to persons 18 years and older and UK residents. The prize is not transferable without the prior agreement of Richardson's. You will be responsible for all ancillary expenses in relation to the prize which are not expressly included. You must comply with all lawful instructions and terms and conditions, including health and safety requirements and instructions, of the prize provider. The prize winner will be required to take part in reasonable publicity and acceptance of the prize authorises the promoter to publish names, photo and county of winner. The decision regarding any aspect of the Prize Draw is final and binding and no correspondence will be entered into. Normal Archant competition rules apply. One winner will be selected at random from the Eastern Daily Press, Norwich Evening News, Beccles & Bury Journal, Chetum & Fakenham Times, North Norfolk News, Great Yarmouth Mercury, Lowestoft Journal, East Anglian Daily Times, Ipswich Star, Norfolk Recorder, Horn & High, Walsby & Hildesley Times or By Standard.



## APPENDIX F: Stakeholder Consultation Email Dated 24 February 2021

### **New Special School in Fakenham – Consultation**

SENDAT would like to offer you the opportunity to comment on our plans to open a new special school in Fakenham – Duke of Lancaster School – to serve children and families in Norfolk.

In July 2020 the Department for Education approved our application to open a new special school. The school will open in January 2022 and be located on the site of the former Fakenham Sixth Form College, in Wells Road, as part of Norfolk County Council’s £120 million programme to transform special education. Information about the new school, its vision and ethos, curriculum offer and admissions arrangements are available for review via the website at [www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster](http://www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster)

Duke of Lancaster School will be a special school for children aged 5-16 with autism and complex communication and interaction needs. When full, the school will provide a modern learning environment for up to 100 children and young people whose parent/carers will have named Duke of Lancaster School on their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

The overarching vision for the school is to develop well-rounded individuals who may be able to re-integrate back into mainstream provision or successfully go forward into post-16 further education. It is important to us that our students leave us fully prepared for their next steps including college and the work environment, capable as adults of being independent and productive citizens.

We believe that high quality education is best achieved when the needs of each individual student – social, emotional, spiritual and educational – are considered to be paramount. Through focusing on students as individuals, we aim to tailor challenging and enjoyable educational programmes to directly meet their needs and to truly personalise learning.

We will work with each student, their parents / carers and other professionals to understand, and work to overcome, each pupil’s particular barriers to learning, so they can achieve their full potential within a secure and caring environment.

We will develop our capacity as a special academy school to enhance the range of experiences available to our students and offer them increasing opportunities for personal, social, intellectual and physical development through our provision, which includes curriculum pathways, a comprehensive enrichment programme, Trauma Informed practice, use of outdoor learning and much more. Linked to this, we will work with the wider community to ensure Duke of Lancaster School has a central place within it.

Our consultation period is running from Monday 22 February 2021 and close on Sunday 4 April 2021. The consultation is part of a process that every Free School must undertake to secure permission from the Secretary of State for Education to open the proposed new school. At the end of the consultation period, the Trust will report the consultation outcome to the Secretary of State for Education.



As part of the consultation process we have prepared an online survey for all interested parties to complete and we would encourage you to let us know your views on the proposed school. There is also a free online event open for all to attend on Thursday 25 February, 10:00-12:00, and we would welcome your attendance at this to meet me and the Head of School and to hear our vision and ethos of the new school, express your views, ask questions and hear from SENDAT and Norfolk County Council about plans for the site, how the school will operate within the local community, and how admissions will work.

The online survey and a link to book a place to attend the online event is now available at [www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster](http://www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancaster)

For further information about the consultation or to request a hard copy of the online consultation event or questionnaire, please email [consultation@dukeoflancaster.sendat.academy](mailto:consultation@dukeoflancaster.sendat.academy) or call 01284 717872.

Thank you in anticipation of your participation in this consultation.

Best wishes

Lawrence Chapman  
CEO SENDAT

Lawrence Chapman  
CEO SENDAT - <https://sendat.academy>  
Executive Headteacher  
    Priory School - <https://sendat.academy/priory/>  
    Stone Lodge – <https://sendat.academy/stonelodge/>  
SENDAT, ASK House, 2 Northgate Avenue, Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk, IP32 6BB      01284717 877





## Appendix G: SENDAT Flyer for Fakenham Residents

# DUKE OF LANCASTER SCHOOL

THE NEW SPECIALIST SCHOOL IN FAKENHAM, NORTH NORFOLK



*NPS Group's proposed visuals for Duke of Lancaster School*

### **ABOUT DUKE OF LANCASTER SCHOOL**

Duke of Lancaster School, the new specialist school in Fakenham, will provide a modern specialist learning environment for up to 100 children and young people, aged between 5 and 16, with autism and complex communication and interaction needs.

Duke of Lancaster School will be run by Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Academies Trust (SENDAT), and is located on the former Fakenham Sixth Form College site in Wells Road. The new specialist school is part of Norfolk County Council's plan to transform special education needs in Norfolk and address the ever-increasing demand for specialist education.

### **SECTION 10 CONSULTATION**

As part of the process of opening a free school, the Department for Education require a consultation under Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010.

The consultation period for Duke of Lancaster School will open on Monday 22 February and close on Sunday 4 April. It will include an online survey and a free online event which will be held from 10am to 12pm on Thursday 25 February.



The consultation and online event aim to give local people, including parents, residents, community groups, schools, parent/carer organisations and others, the chance to express their views, ask questions, and hear from SENDAT and Norfolk County Council about the plans for the site, access and transport, how the school will operate within the local community, how admissions will work, and the vision and ethos of the new school.

We would be grateful if you could respond to the consultation by filling in the online questionnaire which will be made available at [www.sendat.academy](http://www.sendat.academy) from Monday 22 February. If you would like to request a hard copy of the online consultation event or questionnaire, please email [consultation@dukeoflancaster.sendat.academy](mailto:consultation@dukeoflancaster.sendat.academy) or call 01284 717872.

This is an important step in our journey to opening in January 2022 and we are looking forward to listening to your views.

#### **ABOUT SENDAT**

SENDAT is a multi-academy trust, in special education and specialist provision, in the eastern region. Our current family of schools include Priory School in Bury St Edmunds, Stone Lodge Academy in Ipswich and Chalk Hill in Sudbury.

Our schools across the region support a range of needs for those aged between 5 and 25. Our expertise lie in Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), complex communication and interaction needs, moderate learning difficulties, and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) and behavioural needs.

Our vision is to offer a continuum of specialist and alternative provision for children and young people which is focused on achieving the best possible student outcomes whilst fully supporting students and parents.

Our vision is driven by the belief that all should have the same right to an excellent education, regardless of whether they have additional needs of any kind. SENDAT are committed to providing this in their range of provision.





## Appendix H: Norfolk County Council Weekly E-Courier

**Norfolk County Council**

NCC Educator Solutions Traded Services Infospace ICT Solutions School Finder E-Courier MySchool Google Ma

**Exciting new announcements for new Fakenham special school**

Plans are progressing for a [new special school in Fakenham](#) with Robert Speck appointed as the new headteacher of [Duke of Lancaster School](#). The school will be modern specialist learning environment for up to 100 children and young people, aged between 5 and 16 with autism and complex communication and interaction needs.

The school will be run by the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Academies Trust (SENDAT) and will hold a 6 week public consultation, starting 22 February to 4 April. There is a **free online event** on 25 February and you can access the questionnaire and book a place to attend at the event at: [www.sendat.academy](http://www.sendat.academy).

For further information, please read the [SENDAT full press release dated 8 Feb 2021](#).

**This news item was published : 09 February 2021.**

## Appendix I: Norfolk County Council SEND Transformation e-Newsletter Feb 2021



### Progress at new Duke of Lancaster School, Fakenham

Plans are progressing at speed for a new special school in Fakenham with the confirmation of its new name, the appointment of its new headteacher, and a public consultation.

The school will be run by the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Academies Trust (SENDAT) and is being built on the site of the former Fakenham Sixth Form College in Wells Road.

Due to open in January next year, the new school will be named Duke of Lancaster School and will be led by new Headteacher Robert Speck, former Vice Principal and Head of Secondary at The Wherry School, Norwich. It will be a modern specialist learning environment for up to 100 children and young people, aged between 5 and 16, with autism and complex communication and interaction needs.

A six-week public consultation, known as a Section 10 consultation, will open on Monday 22 February and close on Sunday 4 April. It will include an online survey, which will be made available on the new [Duke of Lancaster website](#) from Monday 22 February, and a free online event open to all. The online event will be held from 10:00am to 12:00pm Thursday 25 February. You can book a place to attend at [www.sendat.academy](http://www.sendat.academy).

The consultation and online event aim to give local people including parents, residents, community groups, school leaders, parent/carer organisations and others, the chance to express their views, ask questions, and hear from SENDAT and Norfolk County Council about plans for the site, access and transport, how the school will operate within the local community, how admissions will work, and the vision and ethos of the new school."



## Appendix J: Norfolk SENDIASS March 2021 e-Newsletter

03/03/2021

Norfolk SEND Partnership e-newsletter



### *Just One Norfolk*

Just one Norfolk has a new Additional Needs and Disabilities website page with lots of information and guidance including behaviour strategies, sleep, caring for yourself, transition and supporting siblings.

[Just One Norfolk](#)

### *SENDAT Duke of Lancaster*

Plans are progressing at speed for a new special school in Fakenham with the confirmation of its new name, the appointment of its new headteacher, and a public consultation. The school will be run by the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Academies Trust (SENDAT) and is being built on the site of the former Fakenham Sixth Form College in Wells Road by Norfolk County Council as part of its £120 million programme to transform special education. You can read the [article](#) for more information.

A website has been developed specifically for the school containing a link to the Section 10 consultation. The online survey and free online event which is open to all was made available from Monday 22 February. Click [here](#) for the online consultation.



<https://us19.campaign-archive.com/?u=32e34d30559c96493a4986ddf&id=3295edb901>

5/9



will receive a high quality holistic, ambitious and thoughtfully planned curriculum that places the individual and their voice at the centre of all choices and provides students with the social, emotional and academic skills and knowledge required to enable freedom of choice and independence in adult life."



*NPS Group's visual for Duke of Lancaster School*

Lawrence Chapman, CEO of SENDAT added: "I am delighted that SENDAT can support the development of new specialist provision in Fakenham, working in partnership with Norfolk County Council. We are committed to supporting Norfolk's transformational programme and working with parents/carers and young people to develop the specialist resources they need. SENDAT is entirely focused on specialist provision in the East of England. We will be further developing the website over the next few weeks and months to share information as it is available.

"Duke of Lancaster School will provide an offer that is consistent with our other schools, including our SENDAT 20 enrichment programme, curriculum pathways, trauma-informed practice, use of outdoor learning and much more.

"I would also like to give thanks to the work of architects and designers within the NPS Group [property design and management services] who have gone the extra mile to give Duke of Lancaster School a building that will be fit for purpose and what these children and young people deserve."

The six-week **public consultation**, known as a Section 10 consultation, opened on **Monday, 22 February and closes on Sunday 4 April**. It includes an online survey, which you can find at [www.sendat.academy](http://www.sendat.academy). You can also find there links to recordings of the online event that was held on 25 February.

The consultation aims to give local people, including parents, residents, community groups, school leaders, parent/carer organisations and others, the chance to express their views

For further information about the consultation or to request a hard copy of the online consultation event or questionnaire, please email [consultation@dukeoflancaster.sendat.academy](mailto:consultation@dukeoflancaster.sendat.academy) or call 01284 717872.

Admissions for all special schools are arranged through Norfolk County Council. If this school is possibly suitable for your child, your Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) coordinator will talk to you about the setting as part of the local options. To find out more, go to: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer/education-and-training-0-25/admissions-to-specialist-schools](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer/education-and-training-0-25/admissions-to-specialist-schools).

R G Carter, the appointed contractor, started laying the foundations on site in January 2021. Construction is expected to be completed in autumn 2021.

For further details about Duke of Lancaster school, and to follow progress of the new build, go to [www.sendat.academy](http://www.sendat.academy).





## Appendix L: Registered Interest Email

Good afternoon,

Thank you for registering your interest in the consultation for Duke of Lancaster School in Fakenham.

As part of the consultation process, we have prepared an online survey for all interested parties to complete, and we would encourage you to let us know your views on the proposed school. The online survey is available at [www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancafter/consultation](http://www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancafter/consultation).

There is also a free online event open for all to attend on Thursday 25 February, 10:00-12:00, and we would welcome your attendance at this to meet Lawrence Chapman, CEO of SENDAT, the Head of School and to hear our vision and ethos of the new school, express your views, ask questions, and hear from SENDAT and Norfolk County Council about plans for the site, how the school will operate within the local community, and how admissions will work. If you are unable to attend the live event, a recording will be made available at [www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancafter/consultation](http://www.sendat.academy/dukeoflancafter/consultation). You can book a place to attend the online event at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/duke-of-lancaster-school-section-10-consultation-online-event-tickets-142368051675>. Shortly after booking a place, you will receive a link to the Microsoft Teams live event via email.

If you do not have access to a computer with internet access, we can provide hard copies of the online consultation event and questionnaire on request. Please email [consultation@dukeoflancafter.sendat.academy](mailto:consultation@dukeoflancafter.sendat.academy) or call 01284 717872.

On the Duke of Lancaster consultation website, you will also find frequently asked questions and links to admissions information, the Statement of Provision and SENDAT policies.

Thank you for your interest in the consultation. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact [consultation@dukeoflancafter.sendat.academy](mailto:consultation@dukeoflancafter.sendat.academy).

Many thanks,

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Bury St Edmunds  
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IP32 6BB

Email: [hannah.cushney@sendat.academy](mailto:hannah.cushney@sendat.academy)

