



GIELGUD ACADEMY

Free School update and survey response.

Thank you to everybody for taking the time to complete our surveys and also to give you an update regarding the progress of the proposed Gielgud Academy All-through Free School.

The results of the surveys show overwhelming support for our project and for this we are truly grateful. Only 8% of all respondents indicated that they did not support the project. The surveys indicated that, as well as feeling there was a clear need for local 6th form provision and more primary provision, there was also a strong desire for an additional local Secondary option. Furthermore, there was strong support for the idea that the Arts should be at the heart of a child's education.

It is important to acknowledge that the surveys reflected a small (8%) opposition to our proposal. The most common question raised was regarding the Performing and Creative Arts specialism around which our proposed school will be based and whether a more conventional academic model would be preferable. Such an approach, however, would not address the Department for Education's (DFE's) specified criteria of Vision, Diversity and Educational Innovation, which are required to establish a Free School.

Our vision

Our proposal is based upon the vision of Suzanne and Piers Gielgud, which is shared by the team of experts that constitute the first Board of Governors of the Gielgud Academy Trust. The vision is to create an outstanding school of academic and artistic excellence that helps its pupils to achieve success and reach their individual potential. We believe we can achieve this by discovering and developing the pupil's individual artistic gifts and translating that passion and discipline for their chosen art form into their academic study and life itself.

It is not possible for private individuals or businesses to apply to open a free school. Applications are only accepted from Academy Trusts, which are companies limited by guarantee, with charitable articles specially devised by the DFE. On 16 September 2016, The Gielgud Academy Trust was formally constituted. The Trust is the governing body with a board of governors that will run the Free School. This board has high levels of expertise in education, finance and governance capable of setting up and running one of the very best schools of its kind.

The stages of our free school bid

- ✓ Form the Academy Trust
- ✓ Prepare the Free School bid for the DFE and submit it.
- DFE accepts or rejects the bid following an interview with the board.
- If accepted, the Education Funding Agency (EFA) allocates a building or obtains a building site for premises for the free school to be built on.
- Pre-Opening stage where the Heads and Staff are recruited, the curriculum designed and the site built or building prepared for opening.

We are currently waiting for a date for the interview to discuss our bid. We expect to know if our bid has been accepted by March 2017. We propose to open September 2018. We have specified the Hub as our preferred site.

Introducing the first Board of Governors of the Gielgud Academy Trust:

Christopher Blenkinsop FCCA – Finance

Chris is the Company Secretary of the Gielgud Academy Trust. He is an experienced chartered accountant and an expert in financial planning and budgeting. As a former professional actor he also has considerable experience of the performing arts industry.

Zulfiqar Choudhry – Education

Zulf is a highly experienced Head of School for Computing & IT (Uxbridge College) and a renowned expert in Games Development and VFX. He is also an award winning film-maker.

Lawrence Dean – Finance and Governance

Lawrence is an experienced Fund Manager and has been an active non-executive director on a number of boards. His expertise includes strategy, developing business plans and establishing financial reporting and budget processes. In addition, Lawrence is a musician and a supporter of the performing arts. He is also a Member of the Gielgud Academy Trust.

Dr Elizabeth Evans – Health & Safety

Elizabeth is a former doctor who worked in local hospitals and GP practices as an SHO and GP Registrar. She is currently the Medical Adviser to the Safe Schools Information Technology Alliance. She will be overseeing the School's wellbeing policy. Elizabeth is also a member of the Gielgud Academy Trust.

Helen Everitt – Education

12 years ago, Helen was instrumental in the establishment and setting up of Maidenbower's Oriol Secondary School and 6th Form, where she still works today as Deputy Head Teacher. Her expertise is in the creation of new schools and achieving high OfSTED ratings (Oriol has been rated 2).

Piers Gielgud – Vision/Artistic Heritage

Piers has nearly 35 years experience working at the highest level of the creative and performing arts industries. He is also qualified to teach at Masters level and is an experienced company director. The artistic heritage of the Gielgud family extends back to Dame Ellen Terry's West End debut in

1856 through to the significant theatrical contribution made by his Great Uncle, the Actor, Sir John Gielgud, and his Grandfather Val Gielgud, who was the Producer and Creator of BBC Radio Drama. Piers is the Vice Chair of Governors and Chair of Members of the Gielgud Academy Trust.

Suzanne Gielgud – Principal & CEO Designate

Following a successful career as a professional ballet dancer, Suzanne founded the highly successful theatrical agency Re-Animator Management (now Gielgud Management) in 1997. She created and set up the award winning film production company Gielgud Films in 2005 and created and founded the Gielgud Academy of Performing Arts (GAPA) in May 2011. She is an experienced and qualified ballet teacher of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD) and a multi award winning documentary filmmaker. Suzanne is currently completing an MA in film at Raindance London through Staffordshire University. Suzanne's expertise in artistic innovation and visionary leadership make her the ideal choice as the Gielgud Academy's Principal and CEO.

Catherine Greenwood – Education

Catherine Greenwood is a professional Artist and Art Teacher and has set up The Green Print Studio. She has considerable experience and expertise in curriculum development and education project management, as well as the development of environmentally friendly outdoor educational spaces. She is also an accomplished musician.

Amanda Hateley – Education

Amanda is an experienced primary school teacher. She has considerable expertise in timetable and curriculum design and is used to being part of senior management committees. She is also an experienced company secretary and PA.

Simon Hateley – Education

Simon is currently the Head Teacher at St Margaret's C of E Primary School in Rottingdean and over the last 2 years has improved its OfSTED rating from a 3 (needs improvement) to a 2 (Good). This is evidence of his strong school establishment and improvement experience. He also has great expertise in using staff appraisal to improve standards and develop staff and also in liaising with the wider school community and external agencies.

Councillor Anne Jones MBE – Local Government

Anne has been a West Sussex County Councillor and a Mid Sussex District Councillor for many years and is also Chairwoman of Mid Sussex District Council and former Mayor of Burgess Hill Town Council. She is the liaison between the Gielgud Academy Trust and local Government. Recently retired school governor. She is also an experienced leader of nursery groups and early years music groups. Also established Mother and toddler groups, which soon went nationwide.

Dr James Paskins – Governance

Dr Paskins is the Chair of Governors and the Vice Chair of Members of the Gielgud Academy Trust. He is a distinguished academic and published author. He is the research co-ordinator for the office of the Vice Provost (Research) at University College London. He has a wealth of experience in project

management, research, analysis, statistics, finance/project budgeting and recruitment/HR. He is also the chair of the Standards and Ethics Committee of Westminster University.

Wendy Paul – Education/SENCo

Wendy is currently the SENCo (special educational needs co-ordinator), Inclusion Manager and now an Inclusion Advisor at a Primary Academy in Lindfield. She is a specialist in the assessment of children with Attention Deficit Disorders, Autistic Spectrum Disorders, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties and Specific Learning Difficulties. She also has great expertise and experience in Inclusion, management of teaching assistants, advising teachers on classroom and behaviour management, liaison with parents and outside agencies and innovative teaching practices to build pupil/student self esteem.

Sally Stoyles – Education

Sally recently retired after 12 years, as Deputy Principal of a Primary Academy in Lindfield and was instrumental in helping the school achieve a 2 rating from OfSTED. Her expertise includes preparation for secondary transfer for primary pupils, introduction of the individual pupil tracking system, progress monitoring and the development of whole school policies and school Clubs. She is also skilled at shaping and executing community and parental engagement strategy.

Toby Schumacher – Law

Toby is a barrister who has been providing legal advice to international businesses for more than 15 years, both in private practice and as in-house counsel and company secretary. He trained in London as well as at the European Commission's Legal Service in Brussels and the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. He has also been a charity trustee for several years.

Christopher Thomson – Education

Nationally renowned educational leader Chris is the recently retired Principal of BHASVIC a Sixth Form College in Brighton, rated 1 (outstanding) by OfSTED. He has considerable experience of path-finding work at local, regional, national and Ministerial level. He has proven ability to create solutions independently and extensive experience of corporate governance in secondary, further and higher education. He is a skilled speaker with proven ability to establish rapport, whether one to one or with a large audience and whether with young people or peers of the realm. He is an able writer and a published academic, journalist and poet.

Alfreda Thorogood – Education (Artistic)

Alfreda is a renowned former Royal Ballet Principal Dancer. She is also the former Ballet Principal of the Bush Davies school in East Grinstead and for many years was the Principal of Elmhurst Ballet School which is now a feeder school to the Birmingham Royal Ballet. She was a director of the Royal Academy of Dance. She is currently an English National Ballet School Director. She has a wealth of expertise and experience in directing, management, leadership, teaching, governance, performing arts timetable and curriculum design and the development of academic and artistic cohesion in performing arts schools.

The survey questions answered

When we first opened the surveys, one of our main concerns was getting much needed primary provision up and running by September 2017, as well as some 6th form to fill the void left by the impending closure of Central Sussex College 6th form provision. Your feedback on this issue has proved to be invaluable. The vast majority all preferred the more considered option of the whole school opening in 2018, so this is how we have proceeded with our application.

The following is a list of questions that have been posted by respondents to our surveys and I have tried to answer them all on an individual basis. I realise that some questions will have already been answered by the information posted above. Please note that, with a few exceptions, I have only attempted to answer questions from people who left contact details:

Our answers to your questions are in purple

Q : "I work in the Advertising & VFX industry in Soho, London. I think it would be fantastic to include media technology, post production and video production to professional standard qualifications in the learning curriculum. Would also like to know about maths and technology for creative arts"

A : It is our intention to deliver these professional standard qualifications.

Q : "I would be interested to know about the academic a-level subjects to be offered in the sixth form (only), entry requirements, and the proven results-led record of the teaching staff of those subjects. I would also wish to know more about what specific academic (sic) support there would be for those considering Oxbridge or Russell (sic) group university applications or application to medical school post a-level"

A : We will be offering a wide range of A-level subjects and vocational qualifications to our 6th formers. Entry to our 6th form will be open to all, including those with no artistic interests, but like all 6th forms, entry will be dependent on the appropriate grades being achieved at GCSE. Our Academic Head of Sixth Form will recruit the very best academic staff possible. In order to deliver an outstanding academic provision we will be recruiting staff that are best suited to deliver this provision, dependant on their track record of results.

Q : "I think your plan has a large number of flaws. There is no urgent need for secondary places in the area. The urgent need for primary places is being adequately dealt with by WSCC through the planned expansion projects. The buildings at the Haywards Heath campus of CSC are not suitable for primary education. You do not have the experience to open a primary school as soon as September 2017. The assumptions on your website around the traffic flow at pick up and drop off times are quite frankly wrong. Primary children will not catch the train to school and as such the traffic on Harlands and Turners Mill Road will increase significantly. These roads are already jammed with parents of children attending Harlands Primary School. This needs serious consideration". (Anon)

A: Although this comment was posted anonymously, I think some of the concerns raised are valid. We agree that currently there is no urgent need for secondary places in the area, but there is a *growing* need, which will continue to grow along with the population and the increased housing in the area. Our proposed Primary provision will mean existing primary schools in the area can remain as they are, instead of having to expand to 3-form entry, putting a drain on their resources. It also means huge financial savings for WSCC as our school would be funded by the DFE. The conversion of the current facility into a building suitable for primary school children would be the responsibility of the EFA. Should they EFA successfully obtain the building and decide to assign the facility to us, they would convert the property to make it suitable for Key stage 1 and 2. Regarding the school run issues, it's important to bear in mind that there is ample parking available at the Hub. We are currently proposing a separate entrance and car park for the primary school section.

Q : *“My concern would be academic standards so would need to be very sure these would be high”.*

A : We are only interested in creating a school with the highest of standards both academically and artistically. This is why we have compiled a board of the highest level. Our first target will be to create an academic provision that will be rated 'outstanding' by OfSTED, to fill that gap in the locality. There is no OfSTED rated 'outstanding' primary, secondary or sixth form provision currently being provided in Haywards Heath. We are determined to achieve this. The Gielgud Academy Trust will be recruiting the very best Academic Head Teachers for Primary and Secondary and Sixth Form, and these Heads will be responsible for delivering an outstanding academic provision.

Q : *“If you go ahead and create a full time school will you still run Saturday morning classes?”*

A : Yes. GAPA will remain a separate entity from the Free School and will continue to run on the same basis as it does now. There will be crossover, in that it will provide an enrichment programme and after school activities for the Free School. These will continue to be paid for by parents, like they usually are in state schools. Measures have been taken to prevent conflict of interest.

Q : *“6th form desperately needed. I am less convinced about secondary school and primary school as they may cause problems for existing schools”*

A : The need for more primary provision has been identified by WSCC as even more desperate. The Gielgud Academy all-through free school will actually ease pressure on other schools and provide more choice for parents.

Q : *“Any opportunities for pupils from abroad?”*

A : We are well aware of the demand for a non-fee paying, high achieving, academic and arts specialism school across the UK, and further afield. Our first priority though is to meet the needs of our local catchment and children from across the wider area of Sussex. However, once the school has reached capacity, we will be looking at how to accommodate children from further afield. The school is predicted to reach full capacity within 5 years of opening.

Q : “Brilliant idea and excellent use of facilities. Have you thought about the IB diploma to run parallel to A levels? This programme is very well respected internationally.”

A : The International Baccalaureate is definitely being considered. The Gielgud Academy is able to benefit from the expert advice of one of its Governors, Chris Thomson, who is one the UK’s leading experts in 6th form education. We are very excited at the programme we are looking to deliver.

Q : “My daughter is 11 and loves performing. She attends the Othellos classes at the Ariel Academy. What are your plans re integration of children with special needs at GAPA? I would love to give my daughter the opportunity to pursue her passion, in a safe, rewarding yet local facility.”

A : We take special needs very seriously and are currently looking at how we can best integrate and meet the needs of all children, both artistically, academically and emotionally. We have a SENCo on our board for this very reason.

Q : “Learning support for dyslexic children is essential”.

A : This will be provided.

Q : “Please consider special needs provision if possible as provision is also very limited in Mid Sussex. Good luck!”

A : I will use the words of our patron Dame Gillian Lynne who wrote to us on this very subject in a letter of support for our DFE Bid.

“I am writing to assure you of my full support and encouragement for your bid to open a Free School that specializes in the Performing and Creative Arts. Not only will it help nurture young talent that cannot usually afford this kind of education, but it will also continue to prove how an artistic education can help children overcome severe learning difficulties and rise to the very top of their chosen future profession.

I wish you best of luck and every success with this application. Schools of this kind are too rare and sorely needed.” Dame Gillian Lynne.

Q : “Do you plan to have more secondary and sixth form places available than primary so there can be an additional intake at both these stages, not just existing pupils? I'd want reassurance that the academic side will be invested in as thoroughly as the arts side, although with musical children the arts are very important to us”.

A : Please see answer below

Q : “How would the intake work for the children age 5-16? And could children from surrounding primary schools join here at 11 ie. an additional option to Oathall and Warden Park? “

A : The Primary School will be 2-form entry and the Secondary School will be 4-form entry. The 6th Form will offer 240 places a year. Secondary entry will

be open to all additional primary school leavers in the locality. Entry to the 6th form will be open to all, including leavers from Oathall and Warden Park.

Q : “I agree with a sixth form that provides a stronger academic offer as well as the arts and this appears to ensure that the resources at the Hub can continue to be used. However, close liaison with the other secondary schools to work in a complementary way is really important”.

A : We are very keen to develop and improve our relations with all the local secondary schools.

Q : “Will you be offering different courses? My daughter loves Drama and singing but is not a dancer. Will the option to do an acting course be available? “

A : The school will have five strands – Drama, Dance, Music, Art and Media

MEDIA STRAND	Filmmaking, Web design, Animation, Games Design, Computer Programming and Computer Coding
ART STRAND	Art, Fine Art, Photography, Textiles, Sculpture, Pottery, Film, TV and Theatre Set Design, Costume and Fashion Design
MUSIC STRAND	Classical, Contemporary, Modern, Pop, Rock, Jazz and Choral Music, Music Production, Performance, Sound Design and Recording.
DRAMA STRAND	Drama, Acting, Verse, Prose, Poetry, Shakespeare, Screen Acting, Playwriting and Screenwriting, Directing and Producing.
DANCE STRAND	Ballet, Contemporary, Modern, Tap, Jazz, Pas de Deux, National Dance, Pointe, Repertoire, Ballroom, Street Dance, Choreography and Teaching.

In the primary school, all children will have at least one lesson in each strand per week. In the secondary school each pupil will continue to have one class per week in each strand, but additionally will select one of the five strands to specialise in.

- For example, a boy specialising in media and technology, because he enjoys computer coding and games programming, will not be forced to take ballet (unless he chose to). His weekly dance strand lesson would be street dance, contemporary or ballroom.
- Another example would be a girl choosing to specialise in the art strand because she is interested in fashion and costume design, who would not be forced into learning a musical instrument. Her weekly music strand lesson could be choir or jazz band.
- Someone who loves drama and singing could take drama as their specialised strand and take additional enrichment lessons for vocal training as well as joining one of the school bands, choir or orchestra.

The weekly dance strand for this child on the drama strand would be street dance, contemporary or ballroom.

We are also looking at other options to maintain physical fitness levels as an alternative to dance, such as cadet force, fencing and kickboxing. These five art strands run parallel alongside the national curriculum, to enhance learning through inspiration and motivation.

Q : "I think it's essential that Mid Sussex has a 6th form provision that covers both academic and vocational courses and allows students to be 6th formers without the constraints of uniform and that allows them to develop as independent learners".

A : Uniform will only be compulsory for Primary and Secondary pupils. 6th formers will be encouraged and advised on how to be smart and stylish as they study. We actively encourage the development of charisma.

Q : "The current campus would provide first class facilities for a 6th form education and in particular specialism in the performing arts. It would be helpful to see an overview of the proposed academic and performing arts curriculum in order to comment further on the breadth of opportunity it will provide"

A : When our application is approved by the DFE and the pre-opening phase begins, such an overview will be published. It wouldn't be appropriate to publish it before DFE approval.

Q : "We desperately need 6th form provision in Haywards Heath but not selective arts based. Warden Park's proposal is our favoured one. (Anon)"

A : Warden Park have now withdrawn their 6th form proposal.

The Gielgud Academy proposal includes the following 6th form options:

- Academic A Level provision only
- Art specialism provision only
- Or a combination of both A Levels and Arts specialism.

Q : "Haywards Heath college was not filled due to lack of decent teaching not lack of demand, however I feel that Mid Sussex needs a 6th form that is NOT based on performing arts but a standard 6th form that caters for a wide range of subjects and A level subjects that will lead to university places and future careers in various disciplines. It would be a disgrace if the local 6th form provision became a selective performing arts institution."

A : There are three very important points here:

1. Firstly there appears to be a misconception that the Free School will be selective like a Grammar School. This is completely untrue, unless you consider Primary pupils taking SATS before moving to Secondary education, or admission onto A-level courses being dependent on GCSE grades. Pupils will also need to achieve certain grades to move forward in their chosen artistic discipline.
2. Secondly we will be offering 6th Form places to Secondary leavers from other schools who may have no interest in anything artistic. This

means there will be 6th form provision for those who don't want to travel outside Haywards Heath.

3. Thirdly I'd like to point out that back at the very beginning of this process, the DFE and WSCC made it very clear that they were not interested in any kind of proposal that was 'standard' which usually translates as ordinary. Quite frankly, neither are we. What we are proposing and aiming for is exceptional, outstanding educational and artistic provision, overseen by our exceptional team of experts.

Q : "Haywards Heath needs a sixth form, however my understanding is that this Gielgud Academy is for Performing Arts only. Therefore I do not see how this will help the local community at all. We have a lost a mainstream Sixth Form and we need that replaced. A sixth form dedicated only to performing arts will only help a very small amount of children in the area and will mean that a lot of children from outside the area will be travelling into Haywards Heath to attend this sixth form whilst most of the kids in Haywards Heath will have to be travelling out of the town, across county to access mainstream courses. A performing arts academy would be an ideal addition to the local area IF we already had a mainstream sixth form".

A : Please see answer below

Q : "There seems a great deal of concern that your sixth form provision will ONLY favour Performing Arts and related subjects. Mid Sussex is losing a 6th form providing a wide range of A/AS Subjects & we need a like for like replacement. Will you offer this?"

A : Please see answer below

Q : "Lack of track record in 6th form provision would stop us applying although I am very interested to learning more about how you plan to fund and resource the 6th form and what subjects you will offer outside performing arts".

A : The 6th form will be open to all local children looking to do mainstream A-levels and the majority of academic A levels will be offered. The 6th form will be funded centrally by the DfE.

The current part time Gielgud Academy of Performing Arts (GAPA), specialises in the performing arts. The new Gielgud Academy free school is a completely different school, which in addition to providing the highest level of academic provision, will also be offering Creative and Fine Arts and Media technology. We are looking to train and educate future generations of Actors, Dancers, Singers, Musicians, Fashion Designers, Costume/Lighting/Sound Designers, Video Game Writers, Turner Prize Winners and Film Makers. However, as we propose our academic provision to be outstanding, we, may well also help to produce future academics, teachers, scientists and financiers.

Q : "Although my children are currently only at primary school, I am worried there will be no where(sic) local for them to study academic subjects. I feel that although there is need for performing arts, if students are looking for an education that leads to skills valid by employers then there should be more emphasis on STEM subjects. This will send the wrong message to students

and seems out of touch with future skill requirements in a technologically developed world”.

A : I think this is best answered by this comment from another survey respondent:

Q : Brilliant plan. Much needed. "Official statistics published today reveal that the UK's creative Industries, which includes the film, television and music industries, are now worth £71.4 billion per year to the UK economy – generating just over a staggering £8 million pounds an hour....These incredible statistics are confirmation that the Creative Industries consistently punch well above their weight, outperforming all the other main industry sectors, and are a powerhouse within the UK economy." Government report

A : This information demonstrates why we choose to emphasise the Arts at the heart of an education. We will of course be offering all the STEM subjects, alongside all the other academic subjects of the national curriculum.

Q : “The haywards heath(sic) area needs a sixth form provision that offers a broad range of A levels and similar qualifications. It must offer more than just performing and creative arts. Having sixth form children on the same site as primary children is not appropriate in my opinion”.

A : Having an all-through school is very beneficial for children for many reasons and this is why the majority of leading independent schools run from nursery through to sixth form on the same site and have done successfully for a very long time. We believe that the state sector deserves the same benefits of an all-through education too. If the EFA choose to assign the Haywards Heath Central Sussex Campus site to the Gielgud Academy Free School, then once the old college building has been demolished, there will be enough room to build a site specific, early years building adjacent to the main building.

Q : “Any proposal must specifically look to protect existing sports facilities, including playing fields, and outline how the new science block will be used in addition to the performing arts & other arts based facilities”

A : The school will use and maintain the facilities for PE, sport and specialist fitness training as well as school assemblies. The excellent facilities will also be open to the locality for outside hire for the benefit of the whole community. The science block will continue to be used for science GCSEs and A-Levels.

Q : “I feel strongly that Haywards Heath needs an academic 6th form. With 3 secondary schools in the area, none with 6th form provision there is clearly a need and many students cannot afford or even want to travel to the other Colleges in Sussex. I need to understand more about this proposal and who is involved before I can give my specific support to this bid. Whilst Gielgud have an excellent reputation within the Performing Arts sector I would need to be reassured about those involved in the academic curriculum before considering it as an option for my Year 10 child. I think an opening by Sept 2017 is ambitious and feels rushed”.

A : Most of your concerns have been addressed already in the previous answers. The need for 6th form provision in 2017 was urgent, due to Central

Sussex College closing in July 2017 and this is why we tried to push through our proposal, to meet those needs. However, after taking advice from the New Schools Network, the DFE and the local community through the survey responses, we have adjusted our proposal to aim to open in September 2018. This ensures a more measured approach which prevents the bid being rushed.

Q : "How will this affect students studying at the school who also perhaps train at other performing arts/dance schools? This wouldn't affect our family for quite some time yet as our little one isn't at school, but moving forwards I would be interested to know. Good luck with the proposal!"

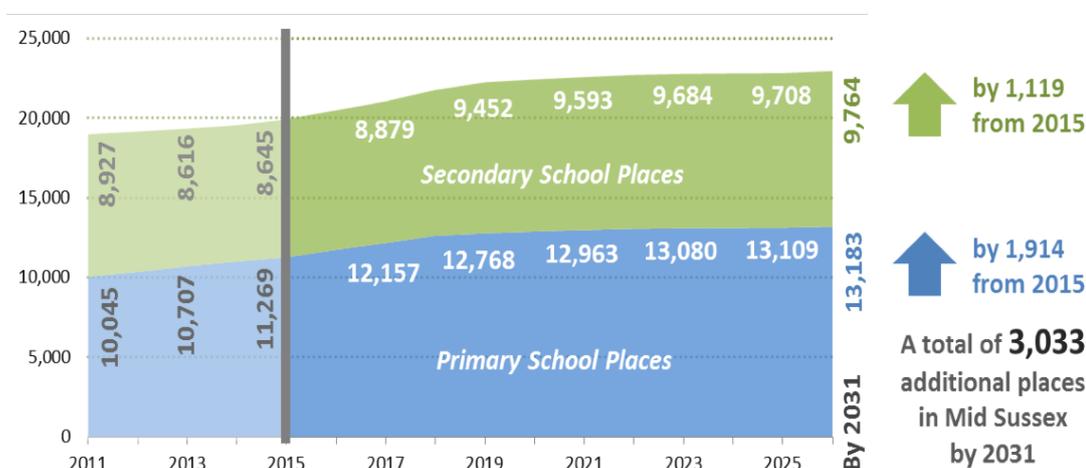
A : Pupils at the Free School will be able to train in dance and drama free of charge every day as part of their school curriculum. They will also have priority access (and indeed a substantial discount) to the enrichment programme and after school provision that GAPA will continue to offer, as well as the evening and weekend classes.

Q : "Hello, I would like to know a few things about the Gielgud Academy proposal for a sixth form: 1. How are you going to pay the £20m mortgage on the Central Sussex College site when they failed? 2. Who are the educational advisers who are supporting this bid? What are their credentials? 3. What provision will be made for students with no interest in the arts? 4. What evidence do you have that secondary school provision(sic) is needed given student numbers at Oathall have been falling? 5. If you secure the Central Sussex College site, what community use of the facilities, especially the theatre suites will you allow? 6. Given that Gielgud Academy is a private business and not a publicly accountable academy trust, what steps will be taken to prevent conflicts of interest? Will the Gielgud Academy business continue to use the site. How will the public know that the public purse isn't directly or indirectly supporting a private business? I look forward to your response to these points.

1. When an Academy Trust enters into a funding agreement with the Department for Education (DFE) to open and run a Free School, the Trust is allocated suitable premises by the Education Funding Agency (EFA). Our application specified the Hub as an ideal site for the Gielgud Academy. It is the responsibility of the EFA to provide a suitable facility to run the free school in. If the EFA obtains the Hub facility and decides to assign it to the Gielgud Academy Trust, the mortgage responsibility would not be taken on by the Gielgud Academy Trust.
2. Our bid has been written by a specialist education bid writer and former Head Teacher. The educationalists supporting our bid, who sit on the Gielgud Academy Trust board of Governors and Members, are listed, along with their credentials at the beginning of this document.
3. Students with no interest in the arts will be allowed to join the 6th Form to study mainstream A-levels. It is highly unlikely that parents will send their children to our secondary school if they have no artistic inclinations whatsoever, when there are other more conventional school places available. However, all children will be welcomed. Most children of primary school age have strong artistic inclinations that will have the opportunity to be discovered, developed and nurtured.

4. The evidence comes from the WSCC review that has taken into account all the new homes being built in the area. By the time the school opens in 2018, it is predicted that a growing need for more secondary places. Please see diagram below.

Detail from West Sussex County Council WS2103 Planning School Places report, 2016. Predicted pupil projections include, where known, the anticipated child product from strategic housing development sites identified/allocated in the District/Borough Plans.



5. Community use of the Hub's facilities will remain much the same as it is now, although we will be seeking to expand this for the community.
6. GAPA the private part time performing arts school is not bidding to open a free school at the Hub in Haywards Heath. GAPA has in fact sponsored the newly formed Gielgud Academy Trust to submit an application to the DfE. Academy Trusts are companies Ltd by guarantee with charitable articles. They have been specially devised by the DfE to form funding agreements with DfE to run Academies. It is not possible for commercial companies or individuals to open Free Schools/Academies. Academy Trusts have robust Governance structures that prevent conflicts of interest and mismanagement. If the application is successful, the EFA has to acquire the Hub if it wishes to allocate it to the Gielgud Academy Trust. If it chooses not to, it would need to provide or build an alternative facility for the free school. If it the free school bid is successful and the EFA does acquire and assign the Hub to the Trust, then the part time GAPA would continue to rent facilities from the Trust at the same rate it does now. It would also provide the Trust with Enrichment and After School activities, but these will be paid for by parents. No public money will be paid to GAPA. More information can be found about opening a Free School at both the gov.uk and newschoolsnetwork.org websites.

If there are any further questions that you would like answered, please email admin@gielgudacademy.co.uk .