

We had hoped that by now there would be more information we could pass on, regarding our application to open an all through free school at the Hub. Unfortunately and as expected, the results of the General Election meant that the Department for Education (DfE) had to seriously revise it's plans and the next wave (13) of free school applications was placed on indefinite hold.

The New Schools Network has confirmed today that there will definitely be a wave 13 and when the new submission deadlines are announced, the Gielgud Academy Trust will prepare an application. We can currently only speculate when these deadlines will be. Currently the DfE has a late November deadline for a wave of Special Schools, which would suggest the earliest wave 13 deadline (for Mainstream Schools) could be Spring 2018. Under these circumstances, a successful application would mean a revised opening date for our school of September 2020.

We can also confirm that the Hub is now the property of the DfE and regardless of whether or not our free school application is successful; the DfE's intention is that the building will be preserved as an educational establishment. We are hoping in the meantime, that we can convince the DfE that the Hub should be used as a community resource, while it's future is being decided. We will keep you posted on our progress.

Piers Gielgud
25th September 2017.