

## **John Taylor MAT Successful in Further Free School Application**

A new “All Through” free school planned for Rugeley will open in September 2023 as part of the John Taylor Multi-Academy Trust (JTMAT), the Department for Education has announced. This is the only “All-Through” school to be announced in the new wave of successful applications.

The school will be built on the former Power Station site, and will eventually accommodate 1400 pupils plus a nursery.

It is being built in response to increased demand for school places in the area.

JTMAT were announced as the successful sponsor after an application process, appraised by a panel that included representatives from the Department for Education, and the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

The John Taylor Multi Academy Trust already runs a number of successful primary and secondary schools in Staffordshire and South Derbyshire, including the £30 million John Taylor Free School in Burton, opened in September 2018.

CEO of the Trust, Mike Donoghue expressed his delight upon receiving the confirmation of the Trust’s success: “We are naturally excited and extremely proud to have been given the responsibility to lead the new school at Rugeley. With a growing Trust that currently comprises many local good and outstanding primary and secondary schools, and a track record of successfully delivering a large Free School, we felt that we were well-placed to offer an exciting, high quality, and innovative offer to the children and families in the area. Focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) from nursery through to Sixth Form, we will do all that we can to make this school outstanding and stand out. I’m delighted that, after a rigorous application and interview process, the selection panel agreed.

“Now the work begins in earnest to fulfil our vision to create the best school we possibly can. The application was very much a team effort, and so will be our work to deliver the school to the community. We look forward to working alongside our partner organisations to make all this happen. We couldn’t be more thrilled.”

Chair of John Taylor MAT, Gareth Moss added: “John Taylor Multi Academy Trust is delighted to have been awarded this very exciting opportunity. We have a track record of delivering high quality education across our schools and are proud of the achievements and progress we have made. We are tremendously excited to bring that experience and ambition to this exciting opportunity. The creation of a community on the old Power Station site is a unique time and one off chance to do something special and we will play our part to the full on this”

County Councillor Philip White, Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills at Staffordshire County Council said: “This school will be the first all-through school to

be built in Staffordshire offering a much more seamless progress through their children's school careers. I am very pleased that John Taylor Multi Academy Trust are ready to take on this challenge, and create a school that really sits at the heart of the local community.

“JTMAT have a proven track record in delivering high-quality education, and an understanding of the challenges that can be faced in developing a brand new school. The new school will support the future need for school places for a growing community and will increase choice and diversity for families. We look forward to working with them on this project.”

The new All Through school is due to open to nursery, reception and Year 7 pupils in September 2023.

The Trust welcomes enquires about the All Through Free School. Please e-mail [admissions@rug.jtmat.co.uk](mailto:admissions@rug.jtmat.co.uk) to express interest in admissions or employment opportunities.

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For further information contact [office@jtmat.co.uk](mailto:office@jtmat.co.uk)



Mike Donoghue, CEO John Taylor MAT