

## **Introduction to The Saracens Multi Academy Trust**

The Saracens Sport Foundation, the charitable arm of Saracens Rugby Club, recently formed the Saracens High School Trust which successfully submitted an application to open a secondary school in 2018 in the Colindale area of Barnet, which has been approved to move into the pre-opening period. It now intends to become a multi-academy trust (MAT), The Saracens School Trust Limited, and to open a primary school in the same area. This school will be called the Saracens Primary School and will provide outstanding primary education for local children, families and the community. The school will be strongly underpinned by the core values of Saracens.

Saracens is one of the most successful rugby clubs in England with a history of outstanding competitive achievement such as winning the Aviva Premiership in 2011, 2015 and both the Premiership and European Championships in 2016. The home of Saracens, Allianz Park, is well established in Barnet being located in the Hendon area of the borough.

Saracens is more than just a rugby club - it is a highly successful and well run business. Its core values - discipline, hard work, honesty and humility, are clear in the commitment to excellence in its business activities and sporting success. Honesty and humility are reflected not only in the Saracen approach to team work but also in the commitment to benefitting the local community through their charitable Sport Foundation which strives to bring positive change to the community, working with some 70,000 children and adults a year to improve their health and education.

### **Vision**

Saracens have a unique identity and a special way of going about their work. They believe strongly in the efficacy of good leadership and team work and the school will reflect this in every aspect of its work. Children and staff will be nurtured as leaders, treated with great respect and all will work incredibly hard as part of the school community. Teaching styles will reflect a focus on resilience, life skills and character development as well as academic excellence. The work of school staff and community will be characterised by exemplary preparation and always going 'The extra mile'. As a result, the children and the school will excel and achieve well beyond local expectations and much better than the Barnet average - changing the local educational landscape and improving the life chances of future generations of children and young people.

Saracens has a strong track record of community engagement and sports education and has received approval to open the Saracens High School in Barnet in 2018. To support its proposal to open a primary school in terms of the very best practice it has formed an educational partnership with the Gold Star Federation, Goldbeaters (Ofsted good 2012) and Orion (Ofsted outstanding 2015) primary schools that are situated in Grahame Park. The Federation currently provides excellent education for children in the area based on its own 'Positive Learning Method' and underpinned by values which are well aligned with those of Saracens. Children in the schools flourish and achieve highly both academically and socially.

## **The educational partnership**

The educational partnership with the Gold Star Federation started to be built through work on the proposals for the Saracens secondary and primary schools. It became clear that the principles, values and educational thinking of the federation were well aligned with those of the Saracens Trust and that a strong partnership could be forged in developing the new primary school. This is a unique partnership between Saracens as the lead sponsor and the Gold Star Federation supporting the development of outstanding educational provision throughout the school.

## **Community engagement**

Saracens commitment to community engagement is evident in its work with the members of the local community to develop first its vision for a new secondary and primary schools coupled with the rest of the ConnectED group of local primary schools, educational professionals, Saracens Rugby Club, Saracens Sport Foundation, Middlesex University and the London Borough of Barnet. Saracens commitment also includes supporting the delivery of an exciting programme of enrichment activities for the new school and its community.

## **Rationale for The Saracens High & Primary Schools - shortage of places**

The London Borough of Barnet strongly supports Saracens' application to open a new high and primary schools in the Grahame Park area to help to meet the need for an increasing number of school places and will be providing a site for a new school to be built.

The Greater London Authority (GLA) released the new round of school roll projections, which include Barnet, in May 2016. These projections take into account:

- the number on roll at Barnet schools from the January 2016 Census;
- housing development data (up to 2030) provided by Planning in January 2016;
- births, migration and fertility data.

The projections used are the normal (not high fertility variant) plus a 3% margin to account for parental preference, under-projection and mobility throughout the year. To calculate the deficit/surplus of school places, the number of permanent school places is compared against the pupil projections to estimate how many additional forms of entry are likely to be required.

## **Rationale for The Saracens MAT- the need to improve outcomes**

The schools will be responding to the needs of a community in and around the Grahame Park estate in the Colindale ward where overall educational achievement is well below local and national averages, educational expectations are low and young people often enter adult life into unemployment. The local schools have been achieving well against the odds and it is critical that children in the new schools achieve at least as well in order to provide that important foundation to their education.

The estate was built by the Greater London Council in 1970 originally as 100% council housing (20% now privately owned but mainly rented out). Although

the area has undergone significant regeneration it still houses a high proportion of vulnerable families and is one of the most disadvantaged parts of Barnet: its three super-output areas are amongst the 13% most deprived in the country and crime rates are high.

Although the proportion of children with English as an additional language in Barnet is generally below the London average, Colindale has a population of children and young people where more than 50% are of Black, Asian or other ethnic minority heritage, over 50% are entitled to pupil premium and the proportion of children with special needs is above average. While children in local schools often achieve good levels of educational attainment against national averages, the gap in that for disadvantaged groups against their peers has widened compared to the London gap and the gap for black boys is particularly wide – figures taken from reports to the council on ‘School performance’ and ‘Educational standards’ in Barnet 2014/15. Closing these gaps will be a priority for the Saracens MAT.

### **Key features of the schools comprising the Saracens MAT**

Saracens is strongly values-driven and has a proven track record of excellence in all that it does. The Saracens MAT brings together a joint pursuit of excellence that will awaken and excite the aspirations and ambitions of children and their families in the Grahame Park area.

The schools will have the following key features:

- educational programmes designed to achieve success for all;
- a special focus on character development;
- a strong emphasis on the mastery of reading, writing and mathematics;
- a wider thematic focus on the world including science, art, history and other subjects;
- a focus on learning to be ‘smart’ – finding talents and working hard on them;
- a high performing school which also excels in a range of sports and physical activities (see D1);
- leadership development programmes for all based on the ‘Saracen’s way’;
- an innovative approach to primary secondary transfer through continuity of a values based approach;
- a hub for the local community with extended care for children before and after school and extensive community use of school facilities.

The Saracens MAT schools will be strongly underpinned by the core values of Saracens:

**discipline:** an orderly, safe and joyful place where children will be governed and guided in their behaviour by fair and sensible principles;

**hard work:** a place where staff and children work incredibly hard to fulfil the potential of each individual and to maintain a relentless effort for school improvement;

**honesty:** an honest appraisal of the effort and attitude in all areas of education;

**humility:** teaching styles that reflect a culture of success and a commitment to character development with achievement celebrated as warmly as attainment.