

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Turner Schools given greenlight to open Folkestone's first
new secondary school in a decade**

***** DfE approves Free School – planned to open in 2018 *****

++New school welcomed by local parents, community leaders and employers ++

The Department for Education has given its approval to Folkestone's first secondary school for a decade to local academy trust, Turner Schools.

The new non-selective 11 – 18 academy will open on the site of the closing Pent Valley Technological College. Folkestone Free School will offer the EBacc, and forge strong links with the town's major employers, particularly those for whom modern foreign languages are an advantage.

The local academy trust has pledged an ambitious curriculum for the school, with an emphasis on developing working language skills. The school will actively support pupils into apprenticeships, the work place and/or university and will offer an inclusive, smaller secondary school for pupils in Folkestone.

The academy will have 120 places for 11 year olds from September 2018, and when full will have 720 pupils on roll.

Dr Jo Saxton, Chief Executive of Turner Schools said:

"This is hugely exciting news for Folkestone – the Free School will play a major role in the regeneration of the town. We are incredibly grateful for the support we have had from the community and local businesses, and especially from the parents of what will be our "feeder" primaries, Morehall and Martello primaries.

"The work starts now to turn our vision into reality, and we look forward to seeing the proposed partnerships with Eurotunnel and others come to life, offering valuable opportunities to our future pupils."

Tracy Luke, Principal of Folkestone School for Girls said:

" I am delighted for Dr Jo Saxton and Turner Schools on the news of their successful bid to open the new Folkestone Free School. Folkestone will benefit from both the extra school places and clear choice the new school will offer."

Parents or carers who would like to find out more about the bid or to register their interest in sending their child to the Free School in 2018 can find more information at www.turnerschools.com

Notes to Editors

1. Turner Schools became the Sponsor of local primary schools Morehall Primary and Martello Primary on 1 January, 2017.

2. The founders of Turner Schools have track records of achieving educational excellence in other parts of the country. For more information about the trust visit www.turnerschools.com

3. Parents who would like to find out more about the bid and to register interest in sending their child to the Free School in 2018 can find more information at www.turnerschools.com