



13 July 2012



As the Director of the Free Schools Group, I am absolutely delighted to be able to tell you that your application to establish Southend YMCA Community School has been successful, and that the Secretary of State has decided it should proceed to the next stage of the Free Schools process. This is a significant step on the journey to opening your school, and reflects the confidence we have in your vision.

I would like to thank you for the great commitment and energy which you and your group have shown in developing your application and at interview. We will appoint a contact for you from within the Department and they will soon be writing to you to confirm what happens next and to outline any conditions that may be linked to the progression of your project. Please do not take any formal steps until you hear from them.

I will be informing the local authority about your success and Ministers will inform the relevant MP.

You should already have the Pre-opening Launch Event for Free Schools opening in 2013 (on 20 and 21 July in the BIS Conference Centre, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET) in your diaries – I know that the New Schools Network asked you to save the date. I very much look forward to meeting you at that event – registration starts at 9.30!

Best Wishes  


**MELA WATTS CBE**  
**Director**  
**Free Schools Group**