

First Head Appointed to new Sixth Form Academy in Tottenham

04 July 2016: Highgate School and Tottenham Hotspur Football Club are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Jan Balon as Principal-Designate of the London Academy of Excellence, Tottenham, from 1st January 2017.

The new school, which will offer academic A level subjects to assist pupils to gain entry to top universities and access to top-flight employment, will follow the model of London Academy of Excellence in Stratford, which has enjoyed great academic success since it opened. LAE Tottenham will open in September 2017 in state-of-the-art premises at the heart of Tottenham. The new academy will also build on Highgate School's ten-year programme of partnership teaching to run enrichment and master classes with local primary and 11-16 schools for their able, gifted and talented pupils.

Highgate School will be the lead educational sponsor, together with other leading independent schools from across London: Alleyn's School, Chigwell School, Haberdashers' Aske's School for Boys, Mill Hill School, North London Collegiate School, St Albans School and St Dunstan's College. Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, will be the business sponsor.

Mr Balon, who has a degree in Politics from Warwick University, is currently Vice-Principal at Aylward Academy in Edmonton, where he has been responsible for expanding the Sixth Form provision and seen both numbers and results improve markedly since 2014. He is thus well placed to establish a new Sixth Form in Tottenham, where at least 50% of the pupils will be local and the majority from less privileged backgrounds.

Mr Balon wants not only to set high standards of academic achievement for his own pupils, but also to build links through them with the local community, particularly encouraging younger pupils to be aspirational in all aspects of their school life 'so as to surprise themselves with what they achieve'.

Adam Pettitt, Head of Highgate School, said: "I was delighted by the extent and quality of the interest in this exciting post, and certain that Jan Balon, with his local experience, his drive and his inspirational record of success, will translate the vision for this new sixth form into a transformational reality for the young people of Tottenham."

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

For further information on LAE Tottenham, please contact Alex Burr on 020 7618 9174

About Highgate School

- Highgate is three schools in one: pre-preparatory, junior and senior, for day girls and day boys aged 3 to 18.

- Highgate School was established in 1565 by a Royal Charter of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the First. Sir Roger Cholmeley, its Founder, was granted Letters Patent to found 'a grammar school...for good education and instruction'.
- Highgate School's partnership and outreach programmes, called 'The Chrysalis Programme, offers free master classes, enrichment, curriculum support and CPD principally in maths and sciences, in state primary and secondary schools.
- The Senior School occupies its original site in Highgate Village; the Pre-Prep and Junior Schools are close by in Bishopswood Road on the doorstep of Hampstead Heath.
- Entry is by tests and interviews which assess academic ability. There is means-tested financial assistance with fees (bursaries) from age 11.
- The School has a Christian tradition but attracts and welcomes pupils from all faiths or none. Service to others is an integral part of Highgate's ethos.

London Academy of Excellence (Stratford, Newham)

- The original London Academy of Excellence, a Free School for 16–19 year old students, opened in Stratford in September 2012.
- LAE aimed to fulfil a need for those who were ambitious to pursue rigorous academic A-levels to gain places at Russell Group universities, without needing to leave the Borough of Newham.
- Its first set of results, in 2014, were the best of any Sixth Form College in the country and led to a Sunday Times award. Six former LAE pupils are currently at Oxford or Cambridge, and another 8 hold offers of places for next year.
- Recent examples of media coverage from the London Academy of Excellence:
 - <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/12104088/East-End-Eton-pupils-beats-top-public-schools-to-Oxbridge.html>
 - <http://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/london-life/headmaster-of-east-end-eton-our-school-raises-aspirations-its-a-genuine-case-of-social-mobility-a3160931.html>