

# The Future of Academies

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**Campaign For Learning**

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# Background

- The Aldridge Foundation uses entrepreneurship as a catalyst for young people to create lasting social change for them and their communities.
- Sponsor of the Darwen Aldridge Community Academy (DACA) [opened September 2008]
- Sponsor of Falmer Academy [open 2010]
- Specialisms of Entrepreneurship and Sport
- Both will have at their heart dynamic Entrepreneurship Centres for community use.

# The current situation

- Darwen
  - 8.6% NEET
  - 31% SEN
  - 29% Free School Meals
  - 31% 5 A\*-C including Maths and English
- Falmer
  - 10.9% NEET
  - 48% SEN
  - 38% Free School Meals
  - 18% 5 A\*-C including Maths and English

# The Darwen and Falmer Academies

## **Buildings**

- Both academies are providing state of the art, iconic buildings to the community
- Must not be viewed in isolation, but as community assets
- Open door policy
- Genuine community access and participation
- Visual beacon of change

## **Entrepreneurship Centres**

- Making the specialism accessible and tangible for the whole community
- Provide advice, guidance and support for entrepreneurs and business start-ups
- Incubation pods with administrative assistance for business start-ups
- Local focal point for volunteering and social enterprise

# What else can a sponsor add?

## **Innovative solutions to re-occurring issues**

- Essentially Dance
- Aspire 2 B

## **Opportunities otherwise not available to the students**

- Speaker programme
- Governors
- Influential and sector leading individuals to offer high level advice and guidance to the Principal and their leadership team
- Support from Central government civil servant secondees

## **Partner organisations**

- The ability to attract more beneficial partners than the school would be able to on their own – *Participle*

# Participle – Reach Out

- Reach Out is joint funded by The Aldridge Foundation, Brighton and Hove City Council, and the London Borough of Croydon.
- It bridges the gap between the service user and policy makers to redesign youth services around what the community needs and wants.
- They are developing a service which will engage those ‘stuck’ young people and turn them into ‘moving’ and eventually ‘thriving’ young people.
- The Falmer Academy will form the focus of the resultant service(s) in the community.

# Future challenges

- Economic recession.
- Conservative target of 400 new Academies.
- Fluidity of a process (nuts and bolt challenges).
- Transforming the perception of the Academy system.
- Danger of losing innovation?

“A step change in a community’s attitude to educational provision”

# Conclusion

- Huge task – many young people being failed
- Yet, massive potential to be released
- We do not need to accept the current model
- Academies can form the basis of a new approach to raise whole communities out of their current situation