

MBA/JSK/SUSX
18 January 2021

Dear Parents and carers

New SEND centre at SET Saxmundham

I am very pleased to inform you that SET Saxmundham School has been selected as one of the few schools in Suffolk to receive new investment from Suffolk County Council to address SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) provision on a county-wide level.

As you know, our vision is to meet the needs of each and every student and we recognise that, across the county and particularly in East Suffolk, there needs to be an increase in specialist education provision to meet the rising demand of students with special educational and disability needs (SEND).

We are now able to create a bespoke SEND centre to provide education for up to 36 new students with additional needs – 18 spaces for students with interaction and communication issues and a further 18 spaces for those needing extra help with cognition and learning. I want to reassure you that this will not have a negative impact upon our existing students and the provision we offer them. We have received additional funding from Suffolk Council to set up and staff this new centre, and it will operate separately from our main school in a new building, with its own entrance and outdoor space. However, it is very much our plan that students in the bespoke centre will be a part of our main school and will join in with activities where appropriate, providing a positive experience for all of our students.

The new SEND centre brings an exciting opportunity to further enhance our current provision for all students with additional needs at SET Saxmundham School, as well as supporting our staff with professional development opportunities.

In April 2018 Suffolk County Council's Cabinet agreed to additional borrowing to fund to create more specialist places for children with SEND. Cabinet have approved capital investment of £24.1m for the SEND Capital Programme to fund new specialist placements which will open in September 2020 and September 2021. The Suffolk SEND Sufficiency Review published in 2018 indicated a projected rise of 18% in the number of children and young people with SEND between 2018 and 2020, and a consequent rise in the demand for specialist placements.

Inspiring, enabling and celebrating each and every young person's personal best

The places being created were identified as needed as part of Suffolk's SEND Sufficiency Assessment. By creating some specialist places within mainstream schools pupils will be able to be educated nearer to home and build relationships with their peers. Our sister schools, SET Ixworth and SET Maidstone and Causton, have already opened similar centres.

Over the next few months, we will be working closely with the Council to refurbish and prepare the building, ready to start welcoming students from September 2021. Our new SENCO, Laura Sheehan, and I will continue to keep you up to date with our progress.

As always, the opinions of our community play an important role in what we do. We will shortly be sending out a brief survey and should be grateful if you would complete and send your responses by 4pm Friday 22 January.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lizzie Girling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lizzie Girling
Head of School