

PRESS RELEASE

Immediate release

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Minister unveils New Charter Academy



Images available

Minister of State at the Department for Children, Schools and Families, Beverley Hughes MP officially opened the New Charter Academy at its Silver Springs campus yesterday (Wednesday 10th September).

The Academy opened its doors to students a week ago. It is the first in Britain sponsored by a housing association.

Tameside's newest and largest school initially offers up to 1350 student places for 11-16 year olds, but will add a 300 entry sixth form in 2010.

The Minister met Academy Executive Director George Lloyd and Ian Munro, Group Chief Executive of sponsors New Charter Housing Trust. After viewing the plans for the new campus, she attended a Year 7 assembly and told students and staff of her pride in what had been achieved so far. She reminded students the rise of the developing world – in China and India – would mean competitive global trading. The government wanted the Academy to prepare young people to meet the challenges and prepare for the world of work.

After hearing from two Academy students about their experience of transition and hopes for the future, the Minister unveiled a plaque and spent time talking to students and staff.

George Lloyd said: "We were delighted the Minister found time in a busy schedule to visit. Her words to our youngest students complemented our efforts to make them feel special. The Academy was well-served by its students today - they created a first impression for the Minister that will last."

Ian Munro said: "When New Charter decided to sponsor, we planned a different route to this opening. Events forced a change – opening a year early



business for neighbourhoods

on two existing sites – but today has reinforced how right we are to promote the Academy.”

The chance to create the New Charter Academy came from the closure of two secondary schools. New Charter agreed with the government to open a year earlier than planned, but on both existing school sites. These have been renamed the Silver Springs and Greenhurst campuses. Site works at Broadoak in Ashton-under-Lyne have now started and the Academy will move to the purpose-designed campus in September 2010.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage homes transferred from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £59million a year and a workforce of almost 800, New Charter is one of the region’s largest Registered Social Landlords, and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog. By incorporating Aksa Housing Association, the Group owns 15,000 homes.
2. New Charter announced its sponsorship of the 1650-place Academy in November 2005. This includes a sixth form for 300 students. The landlord is putting £2million into the new school which has been the catalyst for a £300m Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme across Tameside in Greater Manchester.
3. **iN business for neighbourhoods** is a long-term project highlighting housing associations’ performance. As social businesses, housing associations do not make profit. They offer homes for rent and sale at prices local people can afford. Housing associations provide more than homes - they help create places where people want to live. Wherever you see the **iN business for neighbourhoods** sign, something great is happening in the area. Housing Associations who display this logo are committed to their customers, the neighbourhoods they work in and strive for excellence in everything they do.

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