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### **Media Release**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 0.01am, MONDAY, 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

#### **Historic academy's move goes to consultation**

Ambitious proposals to move Hull's historic Trinity House Academy would protect its traditions and create unique opportunities for the city's young people, say its supporters.

The switch to the former Endeavour Academy site – with Hull Training and Adult Education moving in the opposite direction to Charlotte Street Mews - goes out to public consultation today (Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2021).

Delta Academies Trust, which runs Hull Trinity House Academy, is consulting on three elements to its proposal:

- An increase in the number of students in each year group from 120 to 240
- A move from the current school site to the Endeavour building on Beverley Road
- A change from an all-boys school to a co-educational school.

The proposal, supported by the school's founders The Brethren, would see a gradual increase in the numbers and girls admitted to Hull Trinity House for the first time in its 234-year history.

Delta has reassured students and parents the change would be phased in and handled with sensitivity.

Chief Executive Officer, Paul Tarn, said: "A resurgent city, with new jobs and opportunities, must be accessible to the young people of Hull.

"They will not be observers in the future their City. They must have the education, skills, knowledge, and confidence, to carve out their own destiny.

"Working in partnership with the council, we would invest significant funds at the Beverley Road site to create an outstanding learning and teaching environment for our students and staff.

"It was purpose-built for secondary education and includes some great facilities, including sport fields.

"The academy's present site was converted from higher education use and limits our students and staff. One of Hull's highest performing schools, we are keen to increase capacity at Trinity from 600 to a potential 1,200.

"It is our intention to use that growth to give girls the opportunity to experience Trinity's unique ethos and education pathways."

Principal Graeme Levitt said the switch to a new site would strengthen its traditions.

“Whole school parades would be possible once more and maritime studies would play a full part of a broader curriculum,” he said.

“There is ample provision for students to be picked up and dropped off by car and new cycle lanes are being built along Beverley Road,” said Mr Levitt.

He also stressed the academy’s catchment and admission policy would not change, nor would its distinctive uniform.

Governors on the Academy Advisory Board “fully support” the moves pending the consultation, said its chair Mike Rymer.

“The AAB recognises that providing more students of both sexes the unique offer available at Trinity House could not be achieved on the present, very restricted, site,” he said.

“Hull Trinity House has always been at the forefront of maritime education and with more women entering the Merchant and Royal Navies each year, then the Academy should accommodate this development, and give girls in Hull and beyond the great career opportunities available to the boys.”

He said the development would also dovetail with the Post-16 Nautical College currently at Carmelite House on the Trinity House Estate.

Capt Dennis Robinson, Master Warden of The Brethren and on the Academy Advisory Body, supports the move.

“Trinity House was the first Navigation School, established in 1787, by The Brethren, which was forward thinking indeed,” he said.

“Now, almost 250 years later, The Brethren realise that times have changed.

“Whilst the demand for British Seafarers has reduced overall, the numbers of women who choose to go to sea as a profession has increased dramatically and we know of all female crews on ships and aircraft.

“The Brethren would therefore support the school becoming co-educational, and extend the nautical ethos, education and training opportunities of the Academy to both sexes.

“For over 200 years, the school has been within the Trinity House Estate and the move to the old Nautical College buildings in George Street was a move away from The House.

“However, the links between The House and the school have remained strong, as has the ethos and character of the school.

“The Brethren are assured, and confident, that that ethos and character of the school, formed over many years, will remain as strong, if not stronger, if this initiative comes about.

“They are confident that the larger school will be every bit as academically successful as it has been in recent years with strong outcomes for the pupils, whether they take up a seagoing career or not.

“Members of the Board still make up a significant proportion of the Academy Advisory Body (school governors).

“Carrying on that ‘forward thinking’, The Brethren of The Hull Trinity House support the initiative to move to the Beverley Road site.”

The City Council's Cabinet backed the move to consult on proposals as part of its strategic planning to ensure there are sufficient school places to fulfil its statutory duties.

Portfolio Holder for learning, skills and safeguarding children, Councillor Peter Clark said: "We must ensure we can accommodate the rising numbers of children needing school places and ensure as many children as possible have access to their preferred school, whilst providing the best learning environments possible.

"Consultation into moving Trinity House Academy into a larger site is a significant step in looking at how we can create hundreds of new school places which we desperately need.

"We also know the maritime and engineering sectors are growing locally, so looking at how we can increase the number of school places within an Academy which provides these specialised opportunities, will offer the city's young people good future prospects.

"The consultation will also ask for views on whether these opportunities should be available to girls as well as boys."

To comment on the consultation go to [www.hthacademy.org.uk/consultation](http://www.hthacademy.org.uk/consultation)