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Holly Mumby-Croft MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

20 July 2020

Dear Ms Mumby-Croft,

Following from the Secretary of State for Education's approval of North Lincolnshire Council's bid to establish a new special free school, we are pleased to inform you that Wellspring Academy Trust have been approved to run the new free school. The new school will help to meet the need for additional, specialist, high quality places in the area.

At this stage, the proposer group will begin the task of converting its vision into reality. Officials and the local authority will be working with the group to ensure it has all the support it needs. The Secretary of State will then decide whether to enter into a funding agreement with the trust so that the school can open. In most cases, we will confirm a provisional opening date after a site has been identified and confirmed, and we have assessed the time needed for obtaining planning permission and completing necessary building works or refurbishment. This will help to ensure that commissioners for places at the proposed new free school, have confidence in its opening date.

It is vital that we unlock opportunities and improve education for all children, including those who do not attend mainstream school. The investment in new special schools and alternative provision underlines our commitment to levelling up in education by supporting some of our most vulnerable children.

We hope the new free school will help to provide a greater number of good specialist places for children, often vulnerable and disadvantaged, in your constituency.

Yours sincerely,

**Baroness Berridge**  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of  
State for the School System

**Vicky Ford**  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of  
State for Children and Families