



DATE – 20/10/2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your continued interest in Maritime Academy. Opening a new Thinking School in Strood for our local community, is an incredibly exciting time and an opportunity to work with our stakeholders as we shape the vision for our school.

As mentioned on our website, due to challenges of the past few months there was a possibility that we would need to open the school in temporary accommodation. Unfortunately, events over the past few months have caused delays to our building works and therefore the new school building will now not be completed until September 2023.

We have been working very closely with Medway Council and the Department for Education to find a suitable temporary site to ensure that our founding cohort are able to begin their secondary education in September 2022. Currently the most suitable site is likely to be the former Stoke Community Academy in Allhallows Road (Lower Stoke, Rochester ME3 9SL) – however this is still subject to further review and investigation.

Medway Council have committed to working with us to address any challenges that may arise from locating our school in temporary accommodation, such as free transportation. Once we have further information regarding this, we will share this with our families.

Although this is not the start we would have wished for our school, I want to offer my reassurances that any temporary home would still offer the full secondary experience and uphold the ethos and values of the Maritime Academy and of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, whilst offering our students an excellent experience of their first year of secondary education.

As the permanent school building progresses we will keep parents and students updated to ensure that you are fully informed and can join us as we embark on building our school.

Again, I thank you for your support. I appreciate that this announcement may raise questions. I will continue to share further information as I have it – in the mean-time if you have any questions please email [office@maritimeacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@maritimeacademy.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,  
Jody Murphy  
Director of Education - Strood