



Baroness Barran

Minister for the School and College System

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Joy Morrissey MP

By email: joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk

Your ref: 

4 October 2022

Dear Joy,

Thank you for your email of 1 September, enclosing correspondence from your constituents, Councillor Ekta Kaur Ross and Vivian Nichols, who have written on behalf of the Burnham Working Group about opening a new school in Burnham.

We are aware that Buckinghamshire Council has received the same email from Councillor Ross and Vivian Nichols, and has drafted a letter in response, covering questions (2) and (3).

As you are aware, we have previously provided the rationale for the Secretary of State's decision to close Burnham Park Academy and have therefore not repeated this information.

In response to the first question about meeting a DfE minister, Vivian Nichols has written to the department separately and it will be providing a response to that letter shortly. The department has previously provided information on how the Burnham Working Group could seek to open a new school in Burnham. The deadline for applicants to register their interest was Friday 16 September at 17:00. If no registration of interest was submitted, it will not be possible to consider the proposal to open a new school in Burnham through the central free school route until the next free school wave.

We do not think that there is anything to be gained from Ministers meeting the Burnham Working Group at this time. However, department officials from Regions Group will offer a meeting to help explain the process.

Thank you for writing on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



BARONESS BARRAN

MINISTER FOR THE SCHOOL AND COLLEGE SYSTEM