

BEACON HIGH GIVEN 'GREEN LIGHT' TO JOIN LIFT SCHOOLS

++ SCHOOL LEADERS SAY DECISION IS "SECURING THE FUTURE OF THE SCHOOL AND IN THE BEST INTEREST OF STUDENTS" ++

Islington secondary school, Beacon High, has been given the green light from the Department for Education (DfE) to join Lift Schools.

The Governing Body and Headteacher of Beacon High have written to families today to confirm that the DfE has formally approved the school's application to join Lift Schools, a network of 57 primary, secondary, and special schools. Beacon High will officially become part of Lift Schools in January 2026.

Beacon High in Islington is a well-regarded school with a strong reputation for inclusion and community. Since 2019, the school has made significant progress, achieving a 'Good' Ofsted rating in 2022 and gaining national recognition for inclusive practices, including features in *The Evening Standard* and *The Observer*.

Governors and leaders are proud of what has been achieved and remain committed to securing the school's future. To build on its strengths and ensure continued academic progress, the Governing Body has spent the past year exploring options for the future of the school. After a thorough process, they selected Lift Schools as the academy trust that most closely aligned with the school's values, inclusive ethos, and commitment to serving the community.

Dan Shotter, Vice Chair of Governors, said on behalf of the Governing Board:

"We are incredibly proud of the outstanding work our leaders and staff do every day at Beacon High. The school is well-regarded locally and has built a strong reputation for its inclusive ethos and deep-rooted connection to the community.

"We're excited about the opportunities that joining a strong and values-driven network like Lift Schools can bring. From the beginning, this was never about academisation for its own sake. Our goal has always been to find a trust that truly reflects our values and commitment to inclusion - and we're confident we've found that in Lift. We believe that this is an exciting next step for the Beacon High community and look forward to the school joining the trust in January 2026"

Alan Streeter, Headteacher of Beacon High, said:

"We're really pleased that Beacon High has been approved to join Lift Schools in January 2026. This is an exciting next step for the school and the entire community, allowing us to work collaboratively with other schools on sharing best practice and

benefiting from the strength of their operational and educational teams. We are very proud of our achievements over the last few years and by joining Lift Schools we believe we can become even better. We anticipate a bright future for Lift Beacon High. Our school has developed a strong reputation for inclusivity and keeping pupils with additional needs in mainstream education; this is a commitment that Lift Schools shares also.”

Becks Boomer-Clark, CEO of Lift Schools, said:

“We are delighted that the Department for Education has approved Beacon High to join Lift Schools. Beacon High is a school with a strong sense of purpose, deeply rooted in its community, and with a clear commitment to inclusion. These values sit at the heart of everything we do. We look forward to working in partnership with Beacon High, its staff, governors, and community, as the school enters this exciting new chapter.”

Beacon High remains committed to working in strong partnership with the London Borough of Islington and is collaborating with the local authority on the development of a 36-place SEN resource provision for students with Communication and Interaction needs, which opens this autumn. Lift Schools will support this development, bringing extensive experience in both special and mainstream SEN provision - recognised nationally as models of best practice.

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