



Press Release from Bournemouth University

7 July, 2009

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Rossmore to become St Aldhelm's

Bournemouth University (BU) and the Diocese of Salisbury have chosen St Aldhelm's Academy as the new name for their academy project at the Rossmore Community College in Poole.

BU and the Diocese are sponsoring the transformation of the college into a new academy which is scheduled to open for 11-19 year olds in September 2010. The name reflects the Academy's new Christian ethos, its high academic aspirations and St Aldhelm's strong connections as the patron saint of Wessex.

BU is directly supporting the development of the academy's specialisms in Mathematics and Sport through its Schools of Design, Engineering & Computing and Services Management. The University will also provide opportunities to encourage and enable pupils from the new academy to progress to further and higher education.

Rossmore's young people, staff and local community have been fully engaged in consultation activities to discuss the development of the new academy. Many encouraging responses have been gathered in recent months through meetings, a consultation leaflet and questionnaire, a young people's booklet and the academy website.

Born in 639, Aldhelm became the first Bishop of Sherborne, Dorset. He was considered one of the finest scholars of his time, known for his love of languages, riddles, and other cultures. He was also a man of the people who shared stories, music and verse with the communities he served. He later ran the monastery in Malmesbury, Wiltshire, as a centre of culture and learning and which is considered a forerunner of today's universities. The 1300th anniversary of his death was marked in May of this year.

Jacky Mack, Director of Partnerships and Widening Access for Bournemouth University said, "The new St Aldhelm's Academy will support the aspirations of the pupils and those of the community in a new type of secondary school which promotes lifelong learning, helping to break down barriers and change perceptions much like St Aldhelm did during his own lifetime."

The Bishop of Salisbury, David Stancliffe, said today, "Though he died so long ago, Aldhelm still has a strong message for us today. In his love of learning, different cultures and languages he shows us how difference enriches life and should be celebrated. Above all, he reminds us that living a Christian life should be fun!"

Chris Shepperd, Director of Education for the Diocese, said, "We look forward to growing a new Christian ethos within the Academy, and it is wonderful to have a name which reflects these values. Aldhelm would have enjoyed the challenge of gaining these young people's trust, and helping them to grow into mature adults ready to take their place in our world."

Ends

Notes to Editors:

1. BU is the UK's Number One New University (first place among all institutions that became universities since 1992) according to The Guardian University Guide 2009 & 2010 (www.guardian.co.uk/education).
2. In the 2008 [Research Assessment Exercise](#) (RAE) BU is the fourth most improved university in the UK for the quality of its research (according to *Times Higher Education*).

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