

## Save St Guthlac's School - Press Article

# Headteacher thrilled as school gets £8.25m academy cash

by **RACHEL MAYFIELD**

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A FUNDING bid to create a "world class" academy school in Holbeach has been approved by the Department for Education (DfE) with £8.25m being pledged to the project.

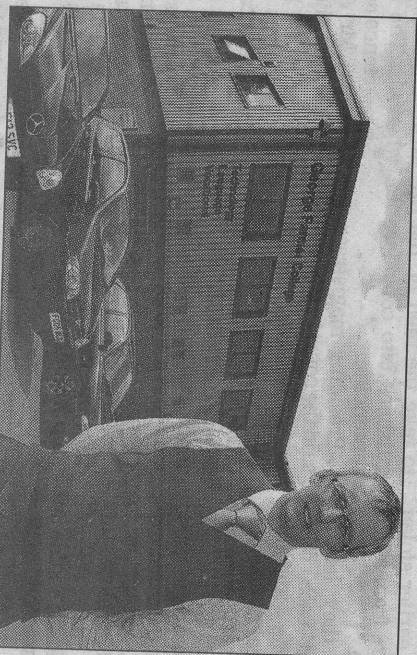
The Holbeach and Crowland Secondary Federation, which includes the George Farmer Technology and Language College and the St Guthlac School, has been awarded the money to turn it into an academy.

The long term plan is to close the St Guthlac School in 2014 and when this happens Lincolnshire County Council has decided to use the existing school site to provide a new primary school, along with enhanced community facilities, for the town.

However, some parents and Crowland residents are fighting the plan and there is a public meeting on January 6 at the school where protesters will be able to question the people behind the plans including Coun Patricia Bradwell, Lincolnshire County Council's executive councillor for children's services, and Andy Breckon from the children's services team.

In May Lincolnshire County Council announced that £18 million would be spent on the Holbeach academy. That cash was then put under review by the coalition Government before executive headteacher Mr Baragwanath submitted a second bid for £11.4m. Last week he was told the school will get £8.25m.

The next step is for the academy sponsors - including academic sponsor the University of Lincoln - and school governors to decide whether



**Excited: Federation executive headteacher Steve Baragwanath says the academy will bring fantastic benefits.**

or not to accept the funding. If they accept there will be a public consultation before a final decision is made.

Mr Baragwanath said: "This is great news for the kids of South Holland. It's a massive investment in the

Mr Baragwanath said plans will be submitted to the DfE outlining how and where on the site the academy will be built.

He said: "If it all goes ahead the academy will open at both sites in September until the capacity at Holbeach grows enough to cope with all the students in one place.

"In the long term it will have fantastic benefits for everyone. It will secure local provision in the area and the relationship with the University of Lincoln promises a great deal for progression into higher education.

"We will be able to deliver the highest quality education for youngsters in the area and we are very excited about the way it will help us improve the provision for youngsters in both communities.

"They will be able to join the school in year seven, continue on to do A-Levels and

then go on to higher education with the university - it will be seamless."

The investment at the Holbeach site will see the old 1950s school buildings replaced with state-of-the-art facilities, a new sports hall, extra classrooms to replace the mobiles and an all-weather AstroTurf pitch.

Building work is planned to start in 2013 and should be completed the following year, allowing the capacity for the academy to operate from Holbeach alone.

Mr Baragwanath said there are 950 students in Holbeach, including the sixth form, and about 320 in Crowland.

The new academy will have the scope for 1,200 students, with capacity for students to relocate from Crowland.

Holbeach firms Langwith Builders, A H Worth and Holbeach Tyres will also be involved in the project.

Save St Guthlac's School

<http://www.save-stguthlacs.co.uk/>

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