**PRESS RELEASE 03.03.22**

**THE EARL OF WESSEX OPENS NEW BUILDING AT ST PETER’S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

St Peter’s CE Middle School in Old Windsor welcomed The Earl of Wessex on Thursday 3 March to officially opened a new building for the school.

The Earl spent time meeting school staff and students, members of the local governing body, local councillors, and staff from ODST, the multi-academy trust the school is part of.

St Peter’s launched the new Peacock building – named after a peacock, ‘Henry’, who lived in the school grounds - last April, thanks to a £1.3 million investment by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. The building is designed to accommodate the school’s expanded Key Stage 2 (Year 5 and 6) intake, which has increased from two to three classes per year in response to rising demand from local families.

At the opening event on Thursday, The Earl of Wessex visited several lessons, including Year 8 English, Year 7 Design and Technology, Year 5 Science and Geography and Year 6 History. A group of students also performed a song from their school play, Oliver Jnr. His Royal Highness then unveiled a plaque for the new building.

Andy Snipp, St Peter’s Headteacher, said: “This has been a very exciting day for us all. There has been a school on this site since 1725 and we believe that this is the first time we have hosted a member of the Royal Family. His Royal Highness was very kind to give us his time and the students thoroughly enjoyed meeting him and showing him their work. They were all very excited! The significant investment from the Royal Borough, along with the support we continue to receive from our Multi-Academy Trust means that we are now able to offer more student places to families across the local area. The new building houses six classrooms as well as a new library, locker rooms and a meeting room. It was an honour that His Royal Highness could be with us on this wonderful occasion.”

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**Notes to editors**

**About Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST)**

[**www.odst.org.uk**](http://www.odst.org.uk)

* ODST is a successful multi-academy trust of 41 schools within Oxfordshire and Berkshire. It is a charitable, limited company that operates independently of its sponsor, the Diocese of Oxford.
* In addition to St Peter’s, further ODST schools in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead are St Luke’s CE Primary, Burchetts Green CE Infants, Holyport CE Primary and Datchet St Mary’s CE Primary.
* Our ethos as a MAT is one of empowerment – our schools serve their unique communities in the way they know best, with support from ODST to ensure they have what they need to deliver this for pupils.
* We are an inclusive trust with a range of school types. Our schools include very small rural schools, large city schools, infant, junior primary and middle schools, church schools and schools without a religious character.