



**Immediate release
21 June 2009**

Pupils send a message for 2020 in King Solomon Academy time capsule

King Solomon Academy Primary School founder pupils have sent a message to their future selves by burying a time capsule on the site of their new academy to be opened in 2020 when the founding class graduates from the school.

The 60 pupils who joined the school in September 2007 are now in year one. They put together the time capsule as part of a project to commemorate the building of their new academy.

The capsule contains:

- a copy of the current primary school prospectus,
- a copy of the school song (“Our school, the crown”),
- photographs of the children when they joined the class and subsequently,
- copies of the architects’ drawings of how the academy will look when complete,
- letters written by each pupil to their future self, speaking of their aspirations following graduation,
- artefacts found on the site while the building work has progressed, including an old thimble, some coins and a small clay pipe.

Head teacher, Venessa Willms, said:

“It’s incredibly exciting watching the new school going up around us. Before the new building opens in September we wanted pupils to feel they have a real lasting connection with King Solomon Academy and one that symbolises their pioneering role as our founding pupils. Writing about their aspirations for life after school gave us a chance to discuss what they might be able to do when they grow up. If they’re successful and don’t change their minds this cohort will include a doctor, an astronaut, a builder, a rock star, a nurse, a teacher, a pet-shop owner, an engineer, a pilot and a policeman”

Four pupils, Versace Haynes, Juwon Farodoye, Adam Mkaled and Alpha Kolajo formally laid the time capsule in its resting place and it will be sited within the new academy when the building work is completed and preserved for its 2020 re-opening by the academy’s then departing sixth formers, today’s year one.

Chris Aisbitt, Senior Building Manager from Willmott Dixon who are building the school, joined pupils and Ms Willms at the site in Penfold Street, London, NW1 to assist with the siting of the capsule. Mr Aisbitt talked to pupils about the construction project that includes the major refurbishment of the 1959 Grade 2* listed building designed by Leonard Manasseh (the former

North Westminster Community School) to provide accommodation for 660 junior middle and upper school pupils.

Ends

For further information please contact Lesley Smith at Ark Schools on 0207 395 2080.

Pictures of the year 1 pupils displaying their hand illustrated letters and burying the capsule are attached.

About King Solomon Academy

King Solomon Academy opened in September 2007 admitting its first reception classes. It admitted its second intake of pupils in September 2008 and will admit its third primary year and its first year 7 secondary pupils in September 2009.

Ofsted visited the school in December 2008 and concluded that: "The academy has made outstanding progress towards raising standards".

King Solomon Academy is one of six ARK Academies in London. ARK academies are non-selective, community schools that admit pupils of all abilities. ARK's aim is to run a network of outstanding schools that provide their pupils with the skills, knowledge and qualifications that will offer them real choices at 18 and enable them to be successful at university and in their chosen career .