

Turner Schools press release relating to the news that Dr Jo Saxton is the preferred candidate for the post of chief regulator of Ofqual, issued 25th June 2021.

'As the founder of Turner Schools, Jo kickstarted a programme of school improvement for a number of Folkestone schools that had previously been failing for many years. Turning around schools that have been struggling for years takes time, and in the early days when expectations on behaviour were being re-set exclusions were high. Having changed the culture within these schools, we've seen a seven-fold reduction in children being excluded – down from 790 in Folkestone Academy and 21 in Martello in 2017/18 to 106 and 3 respectively in 2019/20.

"The popularity of the academies is also increasing, with an additional 50 Year 7s joining Folkestone Academy this September. Martello has also seen a significant increase over the last couple of years. Outcomes are also on the up, with the proportion of students securing five good GCSEs having increased from 24% to 42%– we are seeing an overall improving trend which we expect to continue this year. Folkestone academy is making huge strides to becoming a securely good school in it's own right. There is also much greater stability in the leadership teams, having initially had to rely on interim arrangements whilst the Trust found the right leaders to take the academies forward.

"Finally, in terms of finances, the Trust has saved £1.5m over the last two years and is in a financially stable position. The DfE loan related to the need to find temporary accommodation for our sixth form, having had to move out of the previous building at short notice in 2018. There is a clear repayment plan with the DfE which we are on track with.'