

UNDER EMBARGO: 05 March 2019, 07.00hrs

Synova Backs Chatsworth Schools

Leading growth investor **Synova Capital** ("Synova") is pleased to announce that it has completed an investment into **Chatsworth Schools** ("Chatsworth"), supporting the management team to acquire an initial platform in the independent schools sector and putting in place a package of further funding to support future organic and acquisitive growth.

The initial platform comprises five schools in London and the Home Counties with a strong pipeline of future acquisitions. The intention is to build a market-leading group of outstanding schools in developed markets around the world and also to build new schools in rapidly growing and developing areas.

The Chatsworth Schools team is led by CEO and Founder Anita Gleave who has extensive experience in the education sector, spanning from her initial roles as a teacher and head teacher to managing and successfully growing large private equity backed schools groups in both the UK and overseas with Alpha Plus, WCL and ISP. Anita is joined by an experienced team who will utilise their combined expertise to grow and develop the schools joining the Chatsworth Schools group.

Commenting on the news, Anita Gleave, Founder and CEO of Chatsworth Schools, said: *"We are delighted to make this announcement. The Chatsworth team has a passion for schools as learning communities and a commitment to enabling outstanding futures for all our children. By continually raising standards and fostering a love of learning, we aim to create world citizens and strong communities with resilience and integrity. With Synova's support, we look forward to expanding the Chatsworth Schools family and bringing our extensive experience to each and every one of our schools."*

Tim Ashlin, a Partner at Synova, commented: *"We are delighted to be partnering with the Chatsworth team, who have a track record of exceptional educational leadership. Their focus on quality as the foundation for building a successful, education-led group fits with Synova's approach to long-term value creation and our commitment to providing support throughout the life of our investments. We look forward to continuing to work with Chatsworth Schools in the years ahead and seeing the group grow from strength to strength."*

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. [Synova](#) is recognised as one of Europe's leading growth investors, generating class-leading returns from investing in companies typically valued at between £20m and £100m. Key verticals include Health & Education, Technology, Business Services and Financial Services. Synova is currently investing **Synova Fund III** (2016)
2. **Synova Fund I** (2007) was fully realised, returning 4.0x cost, following the 2018 [sale of Mandata to LDC](#) generating 8.0x cost; **Synova Fund II** (2013) announced its first exit in September 2018 with the [sale of 4Ways Healthcare](#), returning 6.0x cost, followed more recently by the announcement of the agreed [sale of Stackhouse Poland to Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.](#) ([NYSE:AJG], returning 5.6x cost)
3. [Chatsworth Schools](#) aims always to be innovative and to invest in and develop highly successful resilient education partnerships from nurseries to secondary levels. The team has extensive experience in primary and secondary education in the UK and a track record of outstanding educational leadership. Chatsworth is headed by CEO, [Anita Gleave](#). Anita's 30-year career spans a range of roles across the education sector, starting with 20 years as a teacher and then head teacher, before moving onto senior commercial roles in three highly successful private equity backed schools groups: Alpha Plus Group; WCL; and International Schools Partnership (ISP)
4. Chatsworth Schools currently comprises:
 - a. [Hall School Wimbledon](#) provides independent co-education for children aged four to sixteen in the heart of Wimbledon
 - b. [Marylebone Village Nursery School](#) is a Marylebone based nursery for 1-5½ year olds.
 - c. [Benedict House Preparatory School](#) is a co-educational independent school in Kent for children aged 2½ to 11
 - d. [Crown House Preparatory School](#) is a co-educational independent school in Buckinghamshire for children aged 3-11
 - e. [Griffin House Preparatory School](#) is a co-educational independent school in Buckinghamshire for pre-school children to Year 6
5. [Tim Ashlin](#) (Partner) led the transaction for Synova, supported by [Scott Fairlie](#) (Investment Director) and [Charles Dale](#) (Investment Manager). Clyde & Co and Pinsent Masons provided legal advice to Chatsworth and Synova respectively with KPMG, Bidwells and MTM providing financial, property and market due diligence

CONTACT:

Synova: Tim Ashlin, Partner, Tel: +44 (0)20 3475 7660

Chatsworth: Harriet Dyball, Tel.: +44 (0)7779 656831 / harriet@crosthwaitecommunications.co.uk