



SJB/JRu

18 October 2018

Leading : Learning : Training : Technology

Headteacher: Stephen Brady BSc(Hons)

Ms D Strutt, Chair of Governors &
Mr Nigel Griffiths, Headteacher
John Kyrle High School & Sixth Form
Ledbury Road
Ross-on-Wye
HR9 7ET

Dear Ms Strutt and Mr Griffiths

Many thanks for your response to our consultation which arrived on 16th October. Please note that your objections are now on record and will be taken into consideration. We do, however, feel we need to clarify a few of the points you raised.

1. During the consultation process, we have always liaised with the DfE, ESFA and Gloucestershire County Council to ensure we follow the correct procedures. It is our belief that our admissions consultation has fully complied with the DfE regulations. It is clear, consistent and informative. As you are aware we consulted for 4 weeks to establish the local desire and appetite for the sixth form and then again, following DfE guidance, undertook a 6 week consultation regarding a proposed change to our admissions. Evidence of this can be seen on our website and we have written confirmation from Gloucestershire County Council that we have carried out the consultation according to requirements. With this in mind, it could be argued that rather than '*not making it possible for consultees to make an informed response...*' members of the public have actually had at least 10 weeks to make an informed response about our proposals and we have provided excellent information about the process.
2. Again, we have followed guidance from the DfE and the ESFA on the admissions criteria and so our offer to include places for students at Dene Magna is in line with the Admissions Code and is actually best practice. You will of course be aware that any student in an 11-18 school who meets the criteria for entry to a sixth form must be given preference in staying in their own school and guidance should be given to allow external applicants to easily understand how they can get in to the sixth form.
3. We would counter the third objection with evidence of the large number of responses we have received from a range of stakeholders, which included members of the public, local businesses, schools (both primary and secondary), colleges, the District and County Council and members of parliament. It is simply not true to suggest this is a flawed process.
4. Again, we have acted upon advice from the DfE, ESFA and Gloucestershire County Council so that we could consult in the most open, practical and sensible way.
5. We find it hard to comment on your argument that a conversation between Mark Harper MP and Lord Agnew means that we have already submitted a full business case. The RSC Office has not had a full business case submitted by us as we have only just completed our consultation. We must confess to finding it hard to see how this line of argument is really linked to the consultation.

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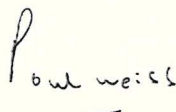
We would like it noted that at no time during this consultation period has anyone from John Kyrle contacted us in order to discuss this, whilst we know that John Kyrle has actively contacted other local schools to ask them to reject our proposal (without success).

As said, we thank you for your comments and we have taken them into consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Brady', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Brady
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Weiss', with a horizontal line underneath.

Paul Weiss
Chair of Governors