



SJB/JRu

25 April 2018

To whom it may concern

Application for a Significant Change to an Academy

Further to our 4 week consultation period regarding our application for Significant Change to an Academy in order for us to provide A-Level provision for the central Forest of Dean through a new sixth form, I would like to confirm that the consultation has now ceased and the following is an outline from the responses received during this time:

- The consultation ran between 12 March to 9 April 2018 and followed Gloucestershire County Council guidance. Local schools and education providers, shops, local businesses, services as well as the press were all contacted and asked for their comments. The consultation was also well documented on our website and social media pages.
- A survey conducted with all members of our current Year 10 and other local schools, revealed an overwhelmingly positive response. Of the 155 replies that were collated from Dene Magna, 122 students stated they would consider choosing Dene Magna as their first-choice A-Level provider. Among their reasons for wanting to remain at Dene Magna were, "excellent teaching staff", "wouldn't want to go to any other school" and "I don't want to travel too far to study".
- Our local MP, Mark Harper, took the time to write a letter expressing his full support. He outlined the need for this as a choice in the area and the part it will play in regenerating Cinderford and the Forest of Dean.
- A local company, Grail Engineering, have written a letter supporting us with the following very valid comments: "We very much welcome the opportunity for local students to stay in the Forest of Dean to study for their A levels. It is good for students not to have to travel out of the local area for provision; which will have the knock on effect of: providing local employment, keep more money in the local economy, and support the redevelopment of Cinderford. Competition is good for the market place; and whilst I can understand your competitors being fearful of your entry to the marketplace given your outstanding track record and reputation for excellence, choice will drive up standards and lead to innovation which can only be good for the students of the Forest of Dean.
- Four schools responded in full support of our proposals. This included responses from Forest of Dean schools who would benefit from this.
- Six responses from parents have been received voicing their support.

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- The only negatives we have received were from the four Hereford Sixth Forms and although we understand their concerns, we have since conducted extensive research and have established that all but John Kyrle High School & Sixth Form are a considerable distance away from the new college and very few students from the central Forest of Dean actually choose to study with them.
- We acknowledge that John Kyrle expressed concerns about the impact this would have on their numbers, but we feel that the college that is being built is 9 miles away and would actually provide an excellent and accessible option for the students of Cinderford, Coleford and Lydney, many of whom do not attend John Kyrle Sixth Form. These students have, until recently, been attending provision in Coleford (the site of the existing college).
- Further research following the letter from Lady Hawkins' Sixth Form, concluded that as they only have 290 students on roll in the whole school (whereas we have 826 students) we felt that whilst the information was well meaning and insightful, the circumstances affecting the schools were very different. It was also established that with 4 secondary schools within the central Forest of Dean area we have over 2,400 students on roll and, as such, will have almost 500 students looking for college courses (as an average across all year groups). We therefore feel that there is a significant need in the area and we believe that we can fill this gap with quality A-Level provision. This is without factoring in retaining students currently travelling out of the Forest of Dean for their secondary education.

All these responses are available to view on our website under the About Us/Six Form page, should you wish to read them in their entirety.

We have addressed any concerns that have been submitted, but we feel passionate about this project and feel confident in its success, therefore, we will be continuing with our proposals to make a Significant Change to an Academy by submitting a full business case to the RSC.

Yours faithfully

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

Stephen Brady
Headteacher