

I strongly support Dene Magna School's proposal to add a sixth form. Without the provision for A' levels in the Forest of Dean we run the risk of losing a generation of our brightest children to Gloucester, Hereford or further afield.

Whilst I accept it is likely that these students will move out of the area for university, by not providing a suitable educational choice we are giving children the message that the Forest of Dean cannot and will not provide education of a standard to progress to university – perhaps the Local Education Authority believe that children brought up in the Forest of Dean are not clever enough or lack the ambition? This clearly is not true as the GCSE results achieved at Dene Magna point to.

Dene Magna is a supportive and progressive school which provides the environment for all its pupils to do their best. The school is more than capable of running a sixth form to the same standard as the secondary school and would assist in extending opportunities for both teachers and students.

Making use of the new Cinderford Northern Quarter campus, as well as being sustainable, will provide the students with a fresh start in a building specifically designed for them. It will maintain the relationships they have made at the school with both their peers and teaching staff. Indeed, the new sixth form would particularly meet the needs of students who are not yet ready for transition to larger colleges, bringing indisputable benefits to each and every student.

Not only will this opportunity provide amazing opportunities for our students, it will bring forward inward investment to the surrounding area and transform our community.