

Public Notice

A New Secondary School to Replace Ellington (Community) School for Girls and The Hereson (Community) School (boys) from 1 September 2009

NOTICE is given in accordance with section 7(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Kent County Council invites proposals to establish a new mainstream school from the merger of Ellington School for Girls and The Hereson School. The two existing schools would close on 31 August 2009 and the new school would open on 1 September 2009.

The school will provide 600 places for pupils between the ages of 11 and 16. The admission number for the school on the opening date should be 120.

Initially the new school will operate on the two existing school sites before consolidating onto the new purpose built accommodation on the Ellington site, Newlands Lane, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6RH. There will be a one year transition period from 2009-2010. The new Year 7 plus Years 8 and 9 at The Hereson School will move onto the Ellington site in September 2009. The Hereson Years 10 and 11 will stay on the existing Hereson site for a further year.

The new school will service principally the Ramsgate area. The majority of the pupils currently attending the two existing schools come from the Ramsgate area and live within two miles of the existing schools.

It is confirmed that Kent County Council will transfer its interest in the existing Ellington buildings and site to the school's trustees, foundation body, or governing body, as appropriate. Under the existing Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract, the site is maintained and operated through a Licensing agreement which will continue to operate until expiry in 2032.

The Hereson School has a special unit currently catering for 9 pupils with Specific Learning Difficulties (SPLD). The new school would extend this specialist support to girls as well as boys and should provide for a total of 15 pupils. The school would be the lead school within the locality for pupils with Speech and Language and Communication Needs (SCLN); Specific Learning Difficulties (SPLD) and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The new school would develop and maintain a range of extended services to meet the specific needs of the local community including quality childcare provision through on-site local providers; a varied menu of activities including out of hours clubs, study support, parenting support; swift and easy referral to specialist support services and community access, including adult learning.

In order to cater for a mixed intake of boys and girls, the existing Ellington School buildings will need some adaptations. This work will be undertaken by September 2009. The estimated cost of this work is c. £200k. This work will be funded by the Local Authority.

The complete invitation states what information must be included in a proposal made in response to this published summary invitation notice. Copies of the complete invitation notice can be obtained by writing to: **Martyn Doole, Area Education Officer (Dover & Thanet), East Kent Office, Clover House, John Wilson Business Park, Thanet Way, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3QZ**. Copies of the complete invitation notice can also be obtained from <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning/about-education-service/consultations/>

If you wish to submit a proposal in response to this invitation, it should be sent to: **Martyn Doole, Area Education Officer (Dover & Thanet), East Kent Office, Clover House, John Wilson Business Park, Thanet Way, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3QZ**.

The deadline for receipt of proposals is 2 September 2008.

Signed: Graham Badman
 Managing Director
 Children, Families and Education Directorate
 Kent County Council

Publication Date: 2 May 2008 (First Publication Date: 4 April 2008)

Explanatory Notes

1. The Local Authority would wish to see the new school provide single sex learning wherever and whenever it can, for example in the core subjects – English, Maths and Science at Key Stage 3, with separate senior leadership responsibilities for the development of boys and girls respectively reflected in the senior management structure. These developments are strongly supported by the leadership and governing bodies of both schools as well as by the Local Authority. This will provide real diversity in terms of the range of provision available locally and would enable the new school to be organised in a way which optimises learning experiences for students of both genders, across the age range.
2. In addition to the adaptations referred to in the public notice, the Local Authority wishes to enhance significantly the facilities available on the Ellington site by undertaking more substantial work to provide additional accommodation, including additional teaching space. This will increase organisational flexibility and provide the physical capacity for the school to organise on a ‘school within a school’ basis. The estimated cost of these additional works would be approximately £6m. The Local Authority is seeking to secure this funding through the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. Subject to approval of this submission funding would be available to undertake the required work from Autumn 2009 with a view to completion by September 2010.
3. The school is subject to a licensing agreement which is part of a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract entered into between Kent County Council and Kent Education Partnership. The PFI agreement runs until 2032. Under the agreement Kent Education Partnership is responsible for the maintenance and operation of the site. The PFI agreement would be adapted to incorporate a ‘back to back’ agreement between Kent County Council and the trustee, foundation body or governing body of the new school, as appropriate. Kent Education Partnership would thereby retain responsibility for the maintenance and operation of the site for the duration of the existing PFI contract.
4. Both of the existing schools are keen to develop the range of extended services available to the local community and are working collaboratively to this end. The Local Authority would actively support the newly established school in undertaking a detailed audit of community need and demand to inform future service development.
5. The current roll forecast for September 2009 is between 692 (min) and 794 (max). The maximum figure assumes that all children currently offered a place at Ellington and Hereson for September 2008 take up their places. However the actual take up may vary significantly from this figure following the outcome of appeals processes, including grammar school appeals before the end of the current academic year. The minimum figure assumes an actual intake based on historic levels over the last two years.
6. From September 2009 the Published Admission Number would be 120 and the roll will eventually settle at 600 pupils as the existing larger year groups work their way through the school. From September 2010 the roll could be up to 710 pupils which is higher than the capacity of the existing school buildings although the Local Authority expects the actual roll to be somewhat lower at that time. However, the additional building work which is referred to in Note 2 will provide substantial additional capacity sufficient to accommodate the maximum number which could potentially materialise.

