

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW TRUST SCHOOL RECEIVED  
FROM THE LOCAL LEARNING TRUST (LLT)**

**Summary of points made at the public meeting held on  
23 September 2008 at Ellington School for Girls**

<b>Issue or Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
(parent) I am concerned that my son currently in Year 6 may not get a place in the new school since under the proposal the new school will only make 120 places available, while the current two schools can admit 120 each	<p>LLT – Whilst the two existing schools can admit up to 120 pupils, historically, over the last three to four years, this has not been happening. The actual intake has been less; in fact secondary rolls across Thanet have been falling. Therefore we need to reduce capacity.</p> <p>LA – To clarify, there will not be 240 students seeking places in the future school. Given our thorough analysis of trends we believe that 120 places will be sufficient to meet demand over the medium and long term.</p>
(parent) You mentioned that some lessons will be taught mixed in Key Stage 3. How might this impact on students with special needs?	<p>LLT – The only lesson that might be mixed will be PSHE which is one lesson a week for students out of a total of 25. The number of pupils with special needs in any one year might be as low as one or two children. Clearly gender won't play a role if it is one child but in the case of two it might be preferable to teach them in a mixed environment</p>
(parent) Can Kent County Council give their assurance that they will provide the necessary funding required to maintain the provision of single sex teaching in the new school? By reducing funding Kent County Council could 'manipulate' the school into a situation where increasing the number of mixed classes could become the preferred option.	<p>LA – The organisation structure of the school will be the responsibility of the Head and the governing body. The Local Authority cannot make decisions about how the school organises itself. It will be for the governing body to review and deploy resources. Schools are funded by a formula and the Local Authority must allocate funds on the basis of the formula.</p> <p>LLT – Under our proposals our commitment to single sex teaching is 'written large'. When we talk about the benefits of economies of scale it is principally about not having two headteachers, two heads of Maths and English and not employing quite so many people in administrative roles.</p>

<b>Issue or Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
(parent) If your proposal were to be rejected by Kent County Council what would happen then?	LA – It should be noted that the judgement will be made entirely on the quality of the proposal. The Local Authority is looking at the quality of the proposal to meet the stated requirements not at the decision to amalgamate the two schools. If the merits of the proposal were rejected, the question is whether or not another competition would be required and could a Local Authority proposal better meet the requirements. It would depend on the grounds on which the proposal was rejected.
(member of staff) The new school will operate on two sites for the first year – will there be additional Local Authority funding to meet the financial pressure of operating on two sites?	LA – The additional cost of running the two sites has not yet been quantified. We would ensure that there would be no shortfall. The Local Authority would not allow the school to fail in the interim period and we have no reason to believe that this would happen. Kent County Council would be committed to making sure the transition works effectively.
(parent) Will the Year 7 girls remain on the Ellington site in the transition period?	LLT – In the interim period moving staff is possible but we do not intend to move children between sites.
(member of staff) Since Kent County Council approved the amalgamation of the two schools how can they be viewed as an impartial decision maker? How can we appeal to them, bearing in mind that Kent County Council instigated the amalgamation. Would it not be more appropriate for the decision to be made by an independent adjudicator?	LA – Kent County Council is operating within the legal requirements set out by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Under the new school competition regulations, where the Local Authority does not intend to submit a proposal, the Local Authority becomes the decision maker with the power to accept, reject or modify proposals. We as the Local Authority do not have to be impartial about the <u>need</u> for a new school. As the decision maker, the Local Authority must evaluate any proposal objectively against the requirements specified in the competition notice.

NB. This is not intended to be a verbatim record and does not include personal attributions. Responses from the representative of the Local Learning Trust (LLT) or Local Authority Officers (LA)