

**PROPOSED CLOSURE OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS (COMMUNITY) HIGH SCHOOL
TO REPLACE WITH A GOVERNMENT FUNDED ACADEMY**

**Summary of Written Responses, as of Friday, 19 December 2008
(Close of Consultation)**

	Support Proposal	Against Proposal	Undecided	Total
Parent / Carer	11	0	0	11
Student	0	0	0	0
Member of Staff	3	0	0	3
Governor at School	3	0	0	3
Other Interested Party	12	2	1	15
Total	29	2	1	32

Comments in favour of the Proposal

- The position of Principal will be key to the success of this project.
- This proposal should make parents think again about educating their children in Tunbridge Wells, rather than sending them to a different town or county.
- Students will receive a better education by being able to stay on in the Sixth Form at the school with which they are familiar.
- Tunbridge Wells High School is ideal to become an academy and this is an excellent opportunity to build on its successes.
- This proposal will create a new and exciting school for the Tunbridge Wells High School community and the Tunbridge Wells area.
- This is the best opportunity for a development of a 'school of choice' for Tunbridge Wells, which will provide a high performance specialist school capable of delivering relevant and appropriate skills to meet the challenges of the businesses represented in West Kent.
- The academy proposal would allow the buildings and facilities to become not only the hub of family life but also of community activity.
- The academy route is the right one for the school, the pupils, the community and the business sector.
- Academy will offer relevant and appropriate skills for business with link with Sensio run on-site Leisure Centre strengthened
- This proposal would complement the church sponsored local schools and the existing provision of grammar schools whilst providing a superb education outside the reach of many children.
- The impact this proposal would have on local skills would be welcomed and the tie up with Skinners would be excellent.

Comments against the Proposal

- As a result of opening the Academy and its increased popularity, there could be additional traffic problems on Pembury Road. Improvements would need to be made.
- There is little to indicate that the huge investment in academies nationally is having a real impact on raising standards.
- The proposal does not address the question of how to achieve a near tripling of student numbers.
- The lack of an appointed Principal, and therefore no indication as to the shape of the proposed staffing structure or the curriculum, means that staff at Tunbridge Wells High School are having to make a decision whether to TUPE to the Academy without this information being available.
- The consultation document does not give enough information regarding the possible detrimental effect that the proposal could have on surrounding schools.