

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Proposal to add a Sixth Form to The North (Community) School, Ashford



Date of Public Meeting:

Tuesday 24 February 2009 at 7pm

Venue for Public Meeting:

The North School, Essella Road, Ashford TN24 8AL

Kent County Council would like to hear your views

This consultation document is available on:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning/about-education-service/consultations>



Children, Families & Education Directorate



FOREWARD

Kent County Council is considering adding a sixth form to The North (Community) School in Ashford. We would like to know what you think of this.

Your views as stakeholders are important and will help shape what happens. This document outlines what is being proposed and invites you to share your thoughts. There is a reply form at the back of this consultation document for you to complete and return.

As part of the consultation process you are also invited to attend a public meeting in which you can put forward your questions to a panel made up of representatives from the Local Authority and the school.

We would like to point out that no decision will be made regarding this proposal until the consultation process has come to an end.

Dr Ian Craig
Interim Managing Director, Children Families and Education
Kent County Council
26 January 2009



BACKGROUND

The North (Community) School is a non-selective specialist school for Sport, ICT and The Rural Dimension. The School currently admits 200 (225 from September 2010) boys and girls per year group into Years 7 to 11. The school draws its students mainly from the urban area of Ashford. In Spring 2008, the school had 851 students on roll.

The table on page 6 shows that as at Spring 2008 the post 16 provision in the schools in Ashford was full (19 places spare) and that there is expected to be a growing deficit of provision during the next few years. The continued growth in the number of sixth form students requires action to be taken to increase school sixth form places.

The proposal to add sixth form provision at The North is complemented by the plans to include sixth form provision in the Academy which might replace Ashford Christ Church School.

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

Kent County Council is proposing to add a sixth form to the North School for 185 pupils with effect from 1 September 2009 by increasing the school's upper age limit from 16 to 19 years.

Adding a sixth form to The North School will broaden the curriculum opportunities available to its students, and the young people of Ashford, by introducing progression routes which do not currently exist within Ashford's 14-19 curriculum. It will also contribute toward enhancing student's learning experiences and future employment prospects.

The School intends to offer post-16 opportunities in its specialist areas of Sport, ICT, The Rural Dimension and Science and to continue to work in partnership with Hadlow Further Education College to develop Land Based Studies from the school's premises. Building work has started on the school's vocational centre, which will support the delivery of the 14-19 curriculum.

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED? Cont/d.

It is proposed that the school would offer Level 2 and 3 Diploma and Applied courses for students aged between 14-19 years of age in the following subject areas:

- Environmental and Land Based
- Applied Science
- Retail
- Art & Design
- Creative & Media
- Sport
- Technology and ICT

It is proposed that the only 'A' Levels which the school will offer will be related to the specialisms and diplomas. The school recognises that it cannot offer the full breadth of post 16 courses its students will want to study. In these cases, students enrolled at The North School will access collaborative courses at other education provisions, while in other cases it may be more appropriate for the students to transfer to another provision at age 16.

Final decisions about the courses offered will be made following discussion with the Learning and Skills Council based upon demand and gaps in the provision across Ashford. Currently the school has a small number of post 16 students on roll who are following courses developed in partnership with Hadlow College.

The School's travel plan will be revisited to reflect the change in age range of the school. Consideration has already been given to how the desire of some young people to drive to school will be managed. The sixth form would have its own entrance along with its own parking spaces adjacent to the vocational centre.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

The proposal to add a sixth form to The North School would not only raise the aspiration and motivation of its students, it would contribute toward;

- providing better access to post 16 education for the young people of Ashford and keep them engaged in learning;
- encouraging young people to remain in education by offering a curriculum which is personalised and more relevant to their needs;
- career development opportunities that the school could offer when recruiting new teachers;
- providing good role models to the younger students during their GCSE preparation stage and;
- contribute to raising standards across the whole school.



2008 Projections for Secondary Pupils – Post 16 Ashford One and Ashford Rural Partnerships

| School | Current sixth form capacity (summer 2008) | Spring term roll 2008 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|---|---|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Highworth Grammar School for Girls | 279 | 273 | 286 | 272 | 282 | 301 | 284 | 281 | 292 | 292 | 289 | 289 |
| Towers School, The | 267 | 305 | 315 | 316 | 317 | 300 | 279 | 278 | 289 | 287 | 271 | 259 |
| North School, The | 0 | 0 | 15 | 34 | 63 | 88 | 134 | 193 | 214 | 220 | 211 | 199 |
| Norton Knatchbull School, The | 311 | 304 | 314 | 321 | 330 | 325 | 329 | 336 | 338 | 338 | 338 | 338 |
| Ashford Christ Church School | 0 | 0 | 22 | 49 | 80 | 118 | 158 | 189 | 188 | 183 | 178 | 173 |
| Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre | 331 | 287 | 339 | 331 | 339 | 343 | 344 | 348 | 355 | 359 | 349 | 338 |
| Sub-total | 1188 | 1169 | 1292 | 1323 | 1410 | 1475 | 1527 | 1626 | 1676 | 1680 | 1635 | 1596 |
| Pupil product adjustment | - | - | 0 | 4 | 11 | 22 | 30 | 37 | 50 | 67 | 84 | 103 |
| Grand total | 1188 | 1169 | 1292 | 1326 | 1422 | 1497 | 1557 | 1663 | 1727 | 1747 | 1720 | 1699 |
| Surplus/(deficit) on current PAN capacity | - | - | -104 | -138 | -234 | -309 | -369 | -475 | -539 | -559 | -532 | -511 |

HOW TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS

We would like to know your views on this proposal. You can respond to the consultation by either:

Completing and returning the attached response form to:

David Adams
Area Children's Services Officer
Mid Kent Office
Kroner House
Eurogate Business Park
Ashford
Kent TN24 8XU

Deadline for response forms is 27 February 2009

or

By attending the public meeting in the School Hall at:

The North School

Essella Road

Ashford

TN24 8AL

On Tuesday 24 February 2009 At 7pm

An elected member of Kent County Council will Chair this meeting, at which all interested parties will have an opportunity to put forward their views. Officers from the Local Authority will also be present to clarify points of detail.

or

Sending an Email to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

CONSULTATION TIMETABLE

What Happens Next?

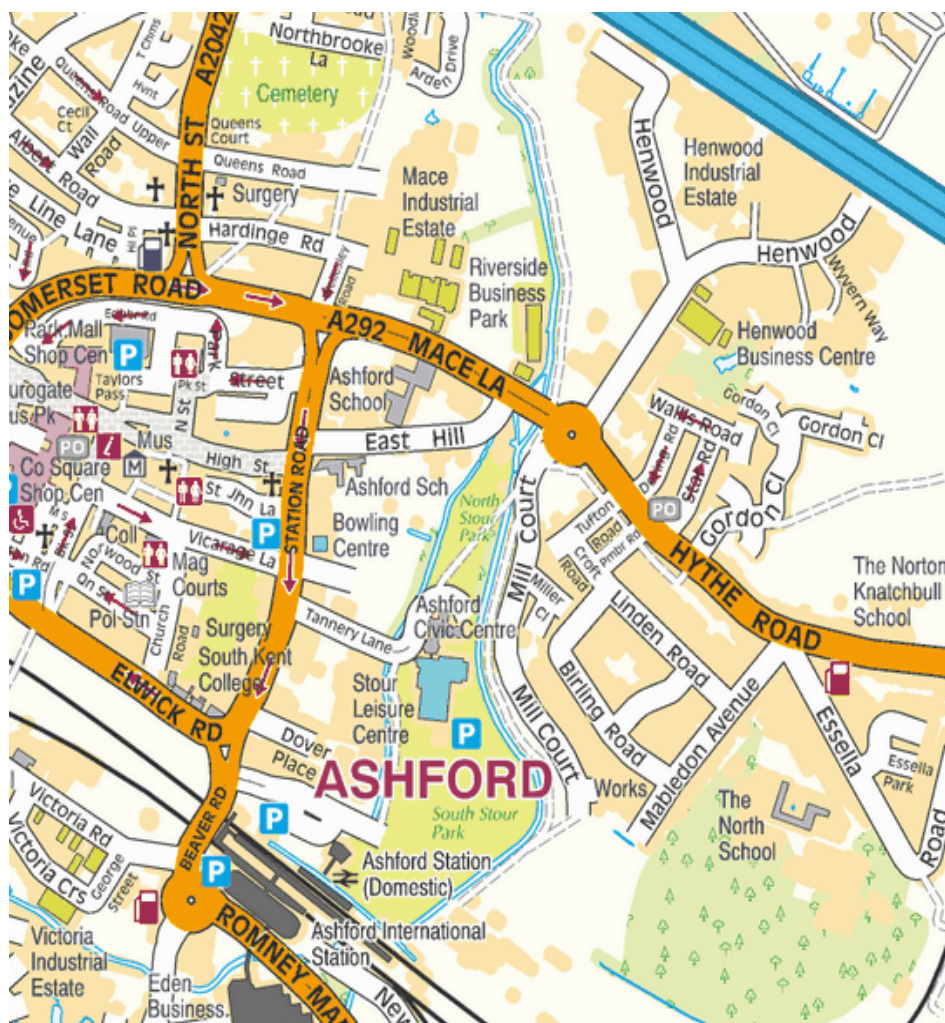
All the views received, either in writing, by email or at the Public Meeting, will be reported to the School Organisation Advisory Board of Kent County Council on 12 March 2009. This is a public meeting which anyone can attend.

IF following a Cabinet Member Decision, Kent County Council determines to take the proposal forward, a Public Notice will be published in the local newspaper, on the school gate, and in public places such as a library. The Public Notice will run for four weeks, during which time anyone can make a Statutory Objection or a Representation about the proposal.

NO decisions will be made on this proposal until your views have been made and are known. The following timetable gives indicative dates for the next stages of the process:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Public Consultation begins | 26 January 2009 |
| Public Meeting to be held at The North School | 24 February 2009 |
| Closing date for responses to consultation | 27 February 2009 |
| School Organisation Advisory Board | 12 March 2009 |
| Cabinet Member decision to issue a Public Notice | March 2009 |
| Date to issue the public notice | 23 April 2009 |
| End of public notice period | 21 May 2009 |
| Determination by Local Authority | May 2009 |
| Proposed implementation | 1 September 2009 |

PUBLIC MEETING VENUE



Directions to The North School:

- From Ashford Town Centre join the Hythe Road (A292)
- Turn right at the garage into Mabledon Avenue
- And immediately turn left into Essella Road

*Please use this spare page as you feel appropriate,
perhaps to make notes at the Public Meeting.*

Public Consultation Response Form

Proposal to add a sixth form to The North School, Ashford.

PLEASE RETURN THIS RESPONSE FORM NO LATER THAN 27 FEBRUARY 2009

To: David Adams, Area Children's Services Officer
 Mid Kent Area Office
 Kroner House
 Eurogate Business Park
 Ashford
 Kent TN24 8XU Fax: (01233) 898500

You can also email your views to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

Do you agree with the proposal? (please tick as appropriate)

Yes **No** **Undecided**

Parent/Carer of a student at The North School

A member of staff at The North School

A governor of The North School

A student at The North School

Other interested Party

Name of other interested party:

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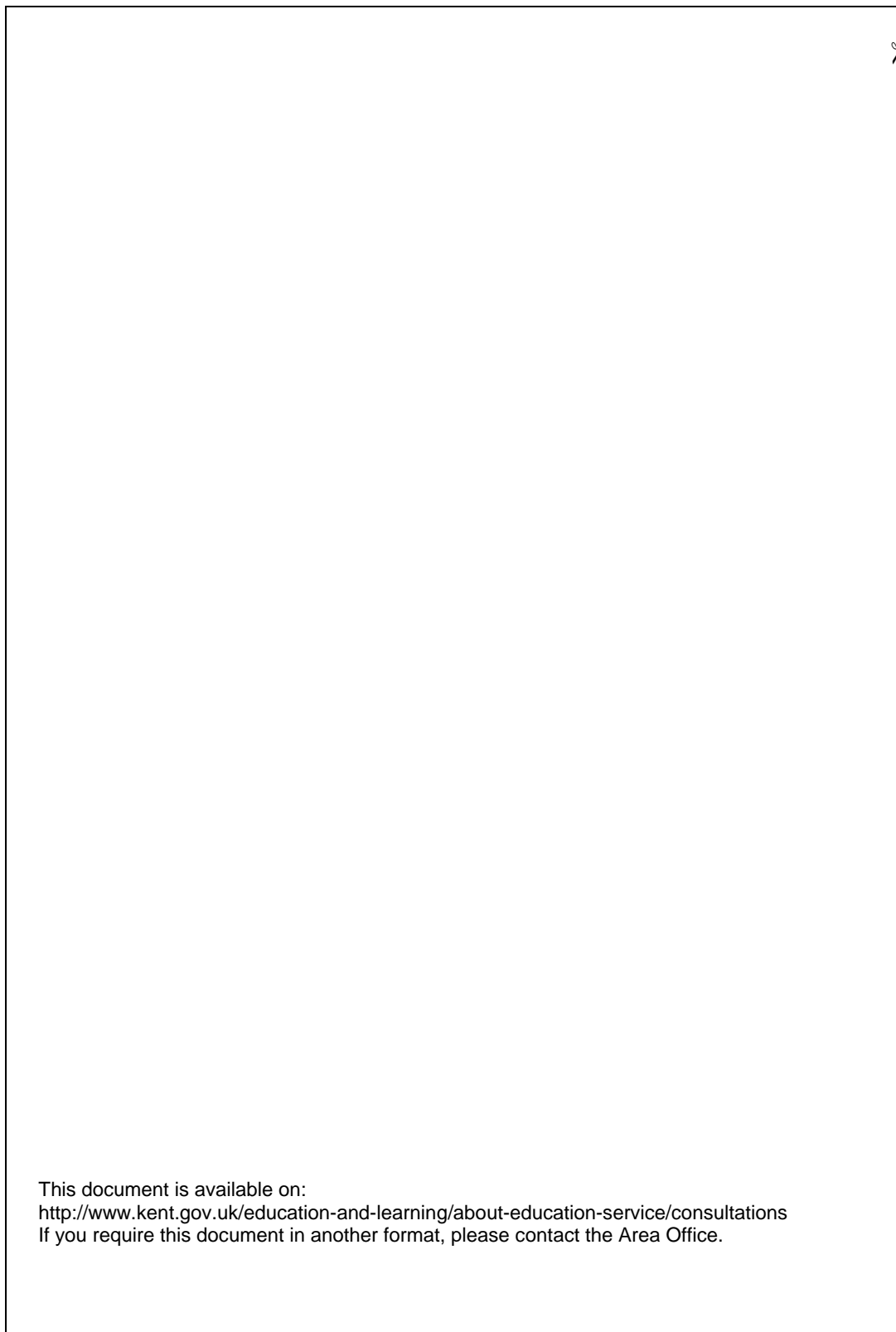
Name:

Address:

Kent County Council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998 and will comply with the requirements of the Act at all times. We will ensure that your personal information is processed fairly and lawfully and in this instance used only for the purpose of validation, which will enable a fair and just consultation.

PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS OVERLEAF

My comments are as follows:



This document is available on:
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning/about-education-service/consultations>
If you require this document in another format, please contact the Area Office.