

Consultation regarding an application to the Selective Schools Expansion Fund 2019

Highsted Grammar School is consulting with its parents and stakeholders to expand the school by increasing our PAN (published admission number) by an additional 30 places, thus enhancing the opportunity of selective education for local girls in our community.

The period of consultation begins on 22 March 2019 and will close on 19 April 2019.

The need for additional places in the local area:

As an Academy we can be flexible with our PAN (Published Admission Number) to react the number of girls who pass the Kent test (and optional Highsted test) and wish to join Highsted. For the last two years we have taken substantially more pupils than our PAN (currently 150) to ensure that all local girls passing the test secure their first choice school. Due to the growth in population, information in Kent's Commissioning Plan acknowledges a continuing need for increased selective school places in the area to accommodate the rise in numbers of local girls requiring a selective secondary school place.

Currently our PAN is 120 and demand for places is higher than this. Increasing our PAN to 150 would allow for 5 forms of 30 pupils. Given the growth of population in the local area, increasing the PAN appears to be the fairest way of ensuring that all pupils who pass the Kent test (or Highsted test) and want an education at Highsted have that choice. Furthermore, ensuring that there are sufficient places maintains our current demographic and catchment area.

We are consulting on:

- 1. Increasing the PAN from 120 to 150 to meet future demand for a selective education in the local area.**

Increased access for disadvantaged students:

Highsted has always been very proactive in encouraging primary schools to participate in joint collaborative projects at the school. This has enabled a wide variety of students to see the school operating during the day and inspire them to attend a school like Highsted. Our culture is inclusive and supportive and this is reflected in the excellent outcomes at GCSE for 'disadvantaged' pupils. The average number (10%) of 'disadvantaged' pupils on roll is higher than the national average (3%) for all grammar schools. Following our previous consultation in 2016, 'disadvantaged' pupils will have a higher priority in our admissions policy in 2020.

Working with other schools to increase access for 'disadvantaged' pupils and to raise achievement:

The Kent test is administered by the Local Authority and pupils sit the test at their local school. Familiarisation materials are readily available but it is uncertain if 'disadvantaged' families have easy access to them. We will undertake research to evaluate if this is the case by working with local schools and provide the necessary support as required. Furthermore, as part of our plan we will:

- Organise a summer school focusing on literacy and numeracy including familiarisation with the Kent test.
- In the first year we will identify 6 schools in relative deprivation* and put measures in place to raise aspirations, assist with familiarisation and support successful completion of the test.

*(*As identified using the Income of deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) 2015)*

Our Pupil Premium statement of intent is available on the website.

Continue to deliver and expand our outreach work to both primary and secondary schools:

We are consulting on:

- 2. Supporting 'disadvantaged' pupils with familiarisation with the test**
- 3. Working with 6 schools in relative deprivation**
- 4. Continuing and developing our outreach work**

If you would like to make any comments about the proposed changes to our admissions policy, including the increase in PAN, or how we can improve access for disadvantaged pupils, then please complete the form at the end of the consultation document and return it to

Mr Peter Statham
Chair of Governors
Highsted Grammar School
Highsted Road
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 4PT

Or via email to Mr M Hydes, Clerk to the Governors
clerktogovernors@highsted.kent.sch.uk

Responses must be received no later than 6pm on 19 April 2019