

Consultation on the expansion of Barton Court Grammar School, via a satellite provision, on the Coastal Strip (Whitstable/Herne Bay)

20 March 2019 to 17 April 2019

Foreword

The Directors of Barton Court Academy Trust and the Governors of Barton Court Grammar School would like to hear your views on a proposal to expand the School on the coastal strip as a satellite.

We are in the process of submitting a bid to the DfE via the Selective School Expansion Fund and working closely with KCC to help find a solution to a lack of selective school provision on the coast serving the Whitstable, Herne Bay and surrounding local communities to meet the basic need for selective school places as identified in the Kent Education Commissioning plan. We would, therefore, like to consult with parents, staff, the local community and other stakeholders about this proposal.

About Barton Court Academy Trust

Barton Court Academy Trust is committed to providing an outstanding education to all students within the Trust, including selective and non-selective pupils. The Multi-Academy Trust currently has 2 secondary schools. Barton Court Grammar School, a co-educational 11-18 years selective school situated in Canterbury City, but serving the Canterbury and coastal districts. The Charles Dickens School, sited in Broadstairs, is a large co-educational 11-16 years non-selective school with 40% of pupils in receipt of pupil premium. The Charles Dickens is ranked fourth of all Kent schools on the index of multiple deprivation (IMD) based on pupils' home postcodes. The Trust is also working closely with the DfE and KCC to open a Free School, an 11-18 years, co-educational, non-selective school on the former Chaucer Technology School site adjacent to Barton Court Grammar School in Canterbury.

About Barton Court Grammar School

Barton Court is an Ofsted "Outstanding School" (March 2014) and an accredited "Advanced Thinking School" (February 2017) with consistently high standards of attainment and progress at both GCSE and A Level. We are a forward-thinking, innovative school, committed to providing a quality education that prepares our students for learning and work in the 21st Century.

Why expand on the coast and not on our current site?

We opened a new build on our current site in January 2018. A brand new facility with 7 additional maths classrooms, 3 additional state-of-the-art science labs, new canteen, servery and kitchen. This fantastic building has allowed Barton Court to expand to 5 forms of entry to meet the current additional need for selective school places. We have no more space on our current Longport site for any further expansion.

KCC have established a need for additional school places in the Canterbury and coastal district alongside a need within Swale and Thanet. Whilst it is planned that the Free School will accommodate some of the non-selective places needed in the Canterbury district there is a need for an additional 5 forms of entry of selective provision. There is no further room for expansion on our current site and we have always had a vision to provide much needed

selective school places on the coast. With 43% of our school community consistently, year on year, travelling into school each day from Whitstable and Herne Bay, there is a need to provide these selective places on the coast which will in turn free up additional selective places in the centre of Canterbury.

The volume of students travelling each day from the coast for educational provision in the heart of Canterbury is significant for all schools, not just Barton Court, highlighting the need for more local solutions. The satellite site will be part of Barton Court Grammar school and this will be run as one school.

We are a very popular over-subscribed school, with more parents placing BCGS first choice on their SCAF than there are places. We serve, in almost equal measure, the coastal, Canterbury city and rural communities.

The proposal is to build a satellite school on a site, yet to be agreed with KCC, in the local area of Whitstable/Herne Bay to serve these local communities. This will be a satellite of Barton Court Grammar School and students will use facilities at both school sites. The satellite expansion will not alter current provision for students at the Canterbury site and the Canterbury site will continue to educate and admit 150 students per academic year as it currently does.

Admissions

The attached pdf shows the dot map of the home postcodes of all pupils attending Barton Court Grammar School as of the October 2017 census. Where multiple students live at the same postcode this is shown as one dot. 43% of our school community live in either Whitstable or Herne Bay and we serve equally the areas of Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay as can be seen on this map. The Kent Education Commissioning Plan states that there is a need for 5 form entry satellite grammar school in the Whitstable/Herne Bay area.

The admission policy for the satellite site will be the same as Barton Court Grammar School as this will be one school run over two sites. Once a student has been assessed as suitable for a grammar school place the oversubscription criteria at the school is as follows:

If the number of preferences is greater than the number of places available, the following criteria for over-subscription will be applied in priority order:

- **Children in Local Authority Care or who were previously in Local Authority Care**
- **Children who are designated as receiving 'Pupil Premium'**
- **Current Family Association**
- **Health and Special Access Reasons.**
- **Nearness of children's homes to school**

As the school will have two sites the nearness of the child's home to school will be measured from a half way point between Barton Court Grammar School Longport site and the site of the satellite. A formal consultation on admissions will take place 18 months prior to opening the expansion as required by the code of admissions.

How will the school be run?

As this is a satellite expansion, Barton Court Grammar School will be run over two sites as one school. The leadership of the school and governance of the school will remain the same; all policies will remain the same, for example policies on admissions, curriculum offer, uniform and behaviour.

How does Barton Court Grammar School and BCAT improve social mobility?

Barton Court Grammar School admissions policy includes priority for students in receipt of Free School Meals and eligible for Pupil Premium Funding. The school already has nearly 10% of its population in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding. We operate a "Pupil Premium Pledge" across BCAT which ensures all staff are highly aware and implement our pledge to those in receipt of Pupil Premium funding; this includes Pupil Premium students have first assessment, first involvement, first reward, first opportunity. The school offers a daily intervention and homework club every night, a positive reward and motivation programme and a wide range of extra-curricular activities, trips and visits in addition to a comprehensive enrichment programme which runs over 11 drop down days across the school year. Y5 Gifted and Talented workshops with local primary schools, with priority places given to pupil premium students, have been running for over 4+years plus our annual Y5 taster day on the last Saturday in June. Our sixth form students regularly support students in their local primary schools as part of their work shadowing and enrichment programme.

BCAT supports social mobility by sponsoring The Charles Dickens School an 8 Form entry non-selective school in Broadstairs with 40% of students eligible for Pupil Premium Funding and working collaboratively with Barton Court to raise aspirations and provide support in teaching of stretch and challenge in the classroom. The two schools run joint trips annually with priority places given to Pupil Premium students: the ski trip in February half term and the Rockley water sports trip in May half term. The Charles Dickens School students also receive priority places into Barton Court Grammar School Sixth Form and within our admissions policy they are treated equally with Barton Court students.

BCAT, working alongside KCC and the DfE plan to open a Free School on the former Chaucer site in Canterbury. This would be a 5 Form Entry mixed non-selective school and Barton Court will support this non-selective school in the same manner as The Charles Dickens School to provide a high quality education and raise aspirations for all. It is our vision to have 3 outstanding secondary schools delivering high quality education for all students of all abilities and to raise aspirations and improve social mobility for all, regardless of whether they have passed the Kent Test or not and are deemed suitable for a grammar school education. The expansion of Barton Court Grammar school will provide us with extra capacity to do this not only at Barton Court but also for the benefit of all 3 schools within the trust.

How will the decision be reached?

If it is agreed to proceed with the proposal, an application will be submitted via the Selective School Expansion Fund, and this will be assessed by the DfE for project viability. The outcome of which will be known in the Autumn. This is still in the early stages of planning and we seek from the DfE a decision to support such a project for the future. An integral part to this process is to seek the views of stakeholders.

Directors and Governors will consider the views of a wide range of stakeholders. There will be a **Public Consultation on Tuesday 26 March 2019 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the School Hall at Barton Court Grammar School.**

How can you respond to this consultation?

The consultation will last four weeks, starting Wednesday 20 March 2019 until Wednesday 17 April 2019 at 5pm.

You can respond in one of three ways:

- Complete the response form at the back of this document and send it to the address shown.
- Write a letter and send this to the address shown.
- Email your response to: consultation@bartoncourt.org

Please return your form by 5pm on Wednesday 17 April 2019 to:

Mrs Clare Levere, Clerk to Directors/Governors, c/o Barton Court Grammar School,
Longport, Canterbury, CT1 1PH, or

Email your comments to: consultation@bartoncourt.org

We will note all your comments, but will not be able to respond individually to response forms, letters or emails.

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Do you agree with the proposal? Yes / No

I am a: Parent/Carer / Member of Staff / Governor / Pupil / Other Interested Party (please delete as appropriate) of Barton Court Grammar School/Barton Court Academy Trust

.....(please state)

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Name: | (optional) |
| Address: (Optional) | |
| Comments: | |

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Deadline – Wednesday 17 April 2019 @ 5pm