

**Consultation on a proposal to expand Barton Court Grammar School, via a satellite provision, on the coastal strip (Whitstable/Herne Bay).**

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~~

..... MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY .....(please state)

Name:	(optional)
Address: (Optional)	
Comments:  <u>PLEASE SEE ATTACHED.</u>	

Please return your form to:

Mrs Clare Levere, Clerk to Directors/Governors, c/o Barton Court Grammar School, Longport, Canterbury, CT1 1PH, or email [consultation@bartoncourt.org](mailto:consultation@bartoncourt.org)

**Deadline – Wednesday 17 April 2019 @ 5pm**

I would like to formally object to the proposal of building an annex to both Barton Court and Queen Elizabeth's grammar school on the coast.

The KCC commissioning plan, published in January 2019 has loosely projected that there may be a need for some additional selective places in the Canterbury and Coastal district by 2024, if all the building work and the birth rate projections roll out prove to be accurate – worthy of note is that the number of homes actually being built is significantly lower from the numbers projected.

Currently, the data in the commissioning plan identifies that grammar schools are taking in 33% of the school population, and indeed the projections suggest that this 33% figure will continue to be the case. However, the Kent test pass rate is set to nominally select 21% of students as “grammar ready” with some additional space filled by primary school Headteacher appeals, up to a generally accepted figure of 25% - indeed 25% is the figure that Paul Carter noted in an article published in The Times newspaper in August 2018 – the article states *'Mr Carter said that Kent had always intended that its grammar schools should provide specialist teaching for about 25 per cent of the brightest children'*. (<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/grammar-schools-are-cutting-entry-standards-to-fill-classes-8cnd3w756>). Undertaking a little basic number crunching clearly shows that at no point over the life of the plan, if 25% of students are selected to attend a grammar school, will there be any issues re. meeting this demand from the existing grammar school places available – indeed there is an over supply of grammar school places over the life of the plan.

To continue this point, information has been circulated that a significant number of students attending grammar schools are taken in on appeal, with them having not passed the Kent Test. This is most concerning and clearly does not support the need for additional grammar school places – rather we should be operating a system where the very brightest 25% attend a grammar school and if this approach was followed this would indicate that the growth area (if the projected demographic numbers are accurate) is for more high school places not grammar school places.

The Independent newspaper published an article on 21/3/2019 entitled 'Fears plans for new grammar school 'by the back door' in Kent could pave way for dozens more nationwide'. This article quotes the following – 'Barton Court currently admits 9.7 per cent of pupils classed as disadvantaged, while Queen Elizabeth's is said to admit 6 per cent'. Clearly the numbers of disadvantaged students attending these grammar schools is considerably below the numbers of disadvantaged students attending non-selective schools – and therefore the suggestion put by these schools that they will focus on this subset of students and that their grammar schools aid social

mobility doesn't hold true. They have had years to improve the access of disadvantaged students to their schools and clearly they haven't really achieved this in any significant way, and one wonders whether their suggestion that this will be a major area of focus going forward is simply a response to the expectations listed within the application form for securing the monies from the Government to expand their schools.

Finally, there is a suggestion that by placing the grammar school on the coast that this will serve the coastal communities of Whitstable and Herne Bay – will this actually be the case? There is significant building work in and around Faversham and in Canterbury which is likely to increase the demand for grammar school places from these areas, as these areas are significantly closer to the 'home' school and therefore will not the 'annex' simply be filled up by students from these areas, rather than the coastal towns. If this proves to be the case there will be students having to be transported to the coastal annex to attend the school from out of the area – which flies in the face of the suggestion that there will be less students having to travel a significant distance to go to school should an annex be built. In addition re. transport – any students attending the proposed new school on the coast will have to attend the 'home' school for a proportion of their week and on the occasions that these students attend their 'home' school, the annex will be populated by some of their other students – far from resolving any student transport issues, this seems to be adding to them.