

# **EXPANDING GIRLS SELECTIVE PROVISION ONTO A SATELLITE SITE IN SEVENOAKS**

## **WEALD OF KENT GRAMMAR SCHOOL, TONBRIDGE**



### **Background**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012, a petition was presented to Kent County Council which asked the local authority to establish a Grammar School in Sevenoaks district. The County Council met and agreed to pursue proposals to facilitate the petitioners' request.

The County Council is mindful that it is not possible to establish a new grammar school, although current legislation allows for the expansion of existing schools. Legislation also allows for existing schools to establish additional provision on remote sites.

### **Geographical Context**

For the purposes of secondary school place planning, it is more sensible to identify 'travel to school areas' rather than to conduct analysis using a district model. Travel to school areas may straddle administrative boundaries according to parental preference and available provision.

Sevenoaks district has two distinct 'travel to school areas'. In the north, nearly all students attend Orchard Academy, Hextable School or the selective & non selective schools in Wilmington & Dartford. In the southern part of the district, nearly all students (98.5%) attend either the Knole Academy or the selective & non selective schools in Tonbridge town & Tunbridge Wells town

### **Forecasts**

Secondary forecasts for Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells districts indicate that the number of Year R students will rise, year on year, for the foreseeable future (Appendix 1). The table at Appendix 1 shows the gradual increase in the Year 6 Primary cohort, year on year. This translates to Year 7 entry into Secondary education.

Other less measurable factor will also impact on these numbers. Recent media reports indicate that the number of families moving into Sevenoaks is increasing, with 24% of the total moving out of London to Sevenoaks. These numbers have the effect of making the demand for secondary places even greater.

### **Impact on Existing School Rolls**

Further analysis indicates that the establishment of three forms of entry in Sevenoaks would not impact on the Weald of Kent admission numbers because the local demand in Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells is also trending upwards (see Appendix 1). Therefore, a new Sevenoaks provision would release more Grammar places for local students in Tonbridge, reducing further, the time and cost lost through travelling.

### **Current Numbers & Impact on Travelling**

There are 3151 secondary age students resident in the Sevenoaks South area. Of these, 1554 students (49.3% of total) travel out of Sevenoaks District to attend Grammar schools in Tonbridge or Tunbridge Wells districts (source: KCC 2013 School Census – Appendix 2).

Addressing this daily exodus is an essential part of any solution to establish additional grammar provision.

### **Proximity**

The Weald of Kent Grammar School is the nearest selective school to Sevenoaks town centre. It is also the school that has the greatest numbers of Sevenoaks-resident students on the roll.

### **Department for Education Advice**

Bids were submitted to the Department for Education by Weald of Kent Grammar School and The Valley Invicta Academy Trust, both of which provide selective secondary education for girls. Each bid incorporated an aspiration to:

- expand the school numbers
- establish a satellite site to accommodate the expansion
- extend the provision on the satellite to include boys, i.e. to establish a co-educational provision.

### **Current Position**

The Secretary of State for Education has ruled that a selective school expanding onto a satellite site would be considered lawful. KCC was further advised that a change from single sex (the host school) to co-educational provision at the satellite annexe would not be lawful. Legal advice from both the Department of Education and the County Council's legal department has resulted in KCC inviting further proposals from interested schools which we hope will be considered more favourably by the Department of Education.

KCC is inviting local girls grammar schools to express an interest in providing three forms of entry for students in the Sevenoaks district. Weald of Kent is the closest school to the Wilderness site and KCC believe that the school is well placed to bid for an expansion onto the site.

### **Site**

The site has been identified as the Wilderness site. The Wilderness site is a valuable asset that KCC is fully prepared to use for a new grammar provision, rather than seek a capital receipt.

The site has been surveyed and architects commissioned to draw up plans for a new campus with modern, purpose built teaching accommodation. Plans for the new build are being submitted to the June Planning Application Committee. The documentation is substantial at 60 pages and can be viewed here:

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s46963/Item%20D3%20-%20Sevenoaks%20Grammar%20Trinity%20Free%20School.pdf>

### **KCC Commitment**

The county council considers Grammar schools to be an essential and integral part of the education landscape in Kent. Notwithstanding the challenging legal complexities, the Cabinet, Members and Senior Officers of Kent County Council remain fully committed to pursuing the proposal to establish grammar provision in Sevenoaks district.

### **Capital Funding**

KCC has confirmed its intention to fund the capital through Basic Need funding and capital receipts, as well as start-up costs of the new provision. This will be in line with funding arrangements for all new academies. The additional capital from the local authority for an academy can be provided under basic need.

### **Revenue Funding**

As the establishment of the provision will be via expansion of the host school the revenue funding available will simply be a reflection of their increased roll together with the relevant amounts of formula funding for Deprivation, LAC, EAL and Rates both for 11-16 and Post 16 pupils. The formula will also allow a one-off amount of additional funding of £6k for every new class established.

### **Planning**

KCC have recommended to the Planning Application Committee that the planning application for Wilderness is approved.

### **Admissions**

KCC has investigated several options for managing the admissions, on the basis of having two centre points for measuring distance. Examples have been identified nationally, where a single school uses two centres for admission purposes.

### **Conclusion**

The desire to establish a Grammar provision in Sevenoaks is long standing, going back several decades. KCC is seeking to work closely with two grammar schools to secure three forms of entry for boys and three forms of entry for girls.

The forecasted demand is clear, the local desire is strong and the commitment from the local authority is robust. Kent Country Council believe that this is an excellent opportunity for Weald of Kent Grammar School.

# Appendix 1

## Current Forecast summary based on Residential Location of Students

### Sevenoaks South

Year of entry to secondary school	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Primary cohort size (i.e. Number entering Year 7)	590	598	670	667	718	753	781
Increase on 2013/14		8	80	77	128	163	191
Increase on 2013/14 expressed as FE		0.5	2.5	2.5	4.5	5.5	6.5

### Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Urban

Year of entry to secondary school	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Primary cohort size (i.e. Number entering Year 7)	1071	1138	1123	1126	1209	1349	1259
Increase on 2013/14		67	52	55	138	278	188
Increase on 2013/14 expressed as FE		2	1.5	2	4.5	9.5	6.5

### Total

Year of entry to secondary school	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Primary cohort size (i.e. Number entering Year 7)	1661	1736	1793	1793	1927	2102	2040
Increase on 2013/14		75	132	132	266	441	379
Increase on 2013/14 expressed as FE		2.5	4.5	4.5	9	14.5	12.5

This shows that there will be a need for an additional 6.5 forms of entry in both the Sevenoaks South area as well as Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells by 2019.

# Appendix 2

## Pupils resident in the Sevenoaks (south) area attending mainstream Kent secondary schools (Spring 2013)

School name		Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Total roll
1	Weald of Kent Grammar School	86	65	72	63	71	52	65	474
2	Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys	63	40	57	51	40	49	32	332
3	Tonbridge Grammar School	32	47	43	53	46	26	41	288
4	Judd School, The	36	38	37	31	29	50	33	254
	Skinnars' School, The	25	23	21	19	20	17	12	137
	Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School	8	10	8	4	12	17	10	69
	Knole Academy	110	126	118	116	88	45	35	638
	Bennett Memorial Diocesan School	39	43	47	36	41	27	32	265
	Hugh Christie Technology College	32	21	50	34	27	19	13	196
	St Gregory's Catholic Comprehensive School	32	22	33	26	24	14	19	170
	Hillview School for Girls	15	13	15	10	10	15	8	86
	Hayesbrook School, The	13	22	22	12	9	2	1	81
	Wrotham School	8	12	13	16	10	6	4	69
	Other Schools (23 - selective & non-selective)	19	4	12	17	19	14	6	92
1	Total number of students resident in Sevenoaks South in each year	518	486	548	488	446	353	311	3151
2	Number resident in Sevenoaks South attending a school outside Sevenoaks South i.e., travelling out of Sevenoaks district every day	408	360	430	372	358	308	276	2513
3	Number resident in Sevenoaks South attending SELECTIVE in Ton/Tun Wells	250	223	238	221	218	211	193	1554
4	Number resident in Sevenoaks South attending SELECTIVE in Ton/Tun Wells as a percentage of TOTAL (Row 1 above)	48.3%	45.9%	43.4%	45.3%	48.9%	59.8%	62.1%	49.3%