

15th June 2018

Consultation from 15 June 2018 to 13 July 2018

Proposed Expansion of Sir William Borlase's Grammar School

Dear Consultee,

You may be aware that the Department for Education announced recently that it is making funding available for the expansion of current grammar schools.

Schools are invited to bid for funding if there is evidence of need for places in the area and, in particular, if some of that need includes children from low-income families entitled to free school meals. Sir William Borlase's Grammar School is an outstanding school, committed to providing a rich and challenging curriculum to all its pupils. We are consistently oversubscribed and are excited by this opportunity to create additional places for local children and to support this initiative in reaching out to children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Our commitment to supporting our primary colleagues in their work to raise attainment and aspiration is evidenced through many local projects and particularly through our work with Beechview School as part of our academy trust.

Evidence shows that there will be increased demand for grammar school places in the Wycombe area over the next few years due to a rise in the secondary aged population. This could particularly affect girls living in the West Wycombe area because of its rural location and the distance to the nearest grammar schools. Following a decision by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA), Bucks County Council is looking to review rural areas of Buckinghamshire which are served by a single grammar school. The OSA considered that the sole catchment area serving a rural area of Buckinghamshire was unreasonable and unfair because there was a foreseeable risk that children in that area would not be offered a grammar school place. Bucks County Council considers that a similar risk exists for girls living in West Wycombe.

Sir William Borlase's Grammar School is the most convenient school for many children to access from Stokenchurch, Lane End and the nearby villages. As a co-educational grammar school it offers places to both girls and boys. We would therefore be proposing as part of the application an extension to our catchment area to embrace those villages. We would also adjust our admissions policy to reserve some of the new places for children in catchment, entitled to free school meals, who scored an agreed mark below 121 in the standard entry test. A separate consultation on catchment change and admissions would need to be shared in the autumn if the school is successful with the funding bid.

In discussion with our Governing Body and Marlow Education Trust, we have made the decision to make an application for expansion funding from the Department for Education to move from 4 to 5 forms of entry. This would mean an initial intake of an extra 30 pupils into Year 7 in 2020 and a further 30 would join Year 7 in 2021, increasing the number of pupils overall by 60. We already have 5 forms in Years 9 - 11 with 145 students in each year group. Therefore as the new 5 forms work their way through the school, Years 9-11 will increase by 5 pupils each.

At this stage we are making a bid to the DfE to support the expansion. The DfE would need to decide if it agrees with the school about the need for places and calculate, in discussion with the school, the level of funding required to improve the current buildings and infrastructure to support effectively two extra classes.

The school's governing body agrees that there would be many additional educational benefits for the school, as well as the potential for current and new pupils to gain from enhanced facilities. These might include an expansion of our specialist science and computing facilities enabling us to put even greater emphasis on practical STEM activities for girls and boys; we would aim to extend our indoor sports facilities which are currently inadequate, in order to promote sport and exercise particularly during the winter months, ensuring they can accommodate wheelchair and other disability sports for local groups to access out of school hours. We would look forward to building further on our links with other local schools in literacy, numeracy, sports and the arts. The increased numbers would also help us continue our commitment to the very rich and broad curriculum for which we are well-known, embracing all performing and visual arts and languages through to A Level alongside the vibrant STEM, humanities and literary subjects.

The co-operation and participation of all involved will maximise the success of our application to address the current lack of provision for school places in the area.

We would therefore welcome your feedback during this formal consultation phase. I would be grateful if you would complete the attached response form and return it by 5.00pm on July 13th, 2018. You can send the form into school, or email it to: consult@swbgs.com (please label letter/email *Consultation Response*)

I do apologise for the fast turn around of the initial consultation; this is a timeline imposed by the government's offer to bid for expansion funding.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration,

Kay Mountfield

Headteacher

Proposed Expansion of Sir William Borlase's Grammar School by 2 classes (1 form of entry) from September 2020

Consultation Response Form

Please delete as appropriate:

I support the proposed expansion of the school by 1 form of entry. YES/ NO

Please tick the statement that most applies to you:

- I am a current parent / carer of a pupil/ pupils at Sir William Borlase's Grammar School
- I am a member of school staff at Sir William Borlase's Grammar School
- I am a governor of SWBGS/ Marlow Education Trust
- I am a member of the local community
- I am a close neighbour of Sir William Borlase's Grammar School
- I am a member of staff at another secondary school in Marlow
- I am a member of staff at a primary school in Marlow
- I am a parent of a pupil in a primary school in Marlow
- I am a member of staff at a school in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
- I am a member of staff in another Buckinghamshire school.
- I am a member of staff in an Oxfordshire school.
- Other (please specify)

If you wish to make further comment or ask a question please complete the box. If necessary please continue on a separate sheet.

Name (optional)

Please return this form by 5.00pm on July 12th, 2018 either to the School Office,
 Consultation Response
 Sir William Borlase's Grammar School,
 West Street,
 Marlow,
 SL7 2BR
 Or e-mail consult@swbgs.com