

Tiffin School – report on the consultation on the growth of Tiffin School

Date of Consultation: Monday 3 June 2013 to Monday 22 July 2013

List of groups/people formally consulted:

- The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames and the neighbouring local authorities
- The Admissions Forum for RBK
- All Primary, Secondary Schools and FE colleges in Kingston and neighbouring authorities as determined as stakeholders in an admissions' consultation
- All primary schools of the current year 7 intake at Tiffin
- All early education centres and nurseries in Kingston
- Tiffin School students and parents
- All ex Tiffinians via the Alumni website
- The general public via the Tiffin School website and advertising in newspapers for our Open Evening on Tuesday 9 July 2013 (2,700 people attended)

- Newspaper article in the Surrey Comet 14 June 2013

Responses to the consultation:

30 written responses were received to the consultation of which 21 supported the growth of the school, 5 neither stated whether they supported or opposed expansion of the School but expressed their views and 4 raised objections in their opposition to the expansion of the School. 7 respondents raised concerns as to whether the school would have enough capacity to cope with the increased numbers students on the site, if there was enough corridor space in the older buildings and if the sports facilities were adequate. 2 of these respondents were concerned that the expansion would have a negative impact on the existing students in the School due to overcrowding and restricted facilities.

3 respondents questioned that any expansion of the School would benefit Kingston students and commented that the need to address the shortage of secondary places in Kingston would not be affected by the school's plan. 2 of these respondents also included statements about wanting the School to change its admission criteria to include more students from the Kingston area.

Addressing the points raised by respondents in the consultation:

The School has a building and refurbishment plan to provide the accommodation for the growth of the School in the next ten years. Starting in 2014 the first phase of the new building called LRC2 will be constructed and will provide 3 new teaching and learning spaces. In the next two years we hope to construct the rest of LRC2 which will provide a new Dining Hall space, 5 new classrooms, new movement areas, offices and space for pupil lockers for increased numbers. All students have a personal locker already.

We will also continue our refurbishment of the present buildings and remodel our IT and administrative spaces to allow for expansion in the science laboratories and teaching spaces. All of this work will allow us to increase our playground space and movement space by utilising existing areas of the school site that are not used effectively. This will accommodate the increase in students in terms of their social and play space as well as study and teaching spaces.

Our sports facilities on site have been developed and we have the benefit of extensive playing fields near Hampton Court. The Governors will continue to invest in the further improvement of the extensive sports facilities that we already have. All of these facilities are open for use to the general public after school hours and we welcome many local users to our facilities.

With the expansion in numbers we predict that we will be increasing our numbers of students from Kingston and the bordering local authorities (Richmond, Merton and Surrey) which currently provide 65% of all students in the School. The ever increasing popularity of the School at entry at age 11 and 16 comes from within Kingston and its neighbouring areas. This phenomena of expanding demand is being felt throughout Kingston's schools due to their high levels of performance and success. The summer of 2013 results clearly indicate this.

In the next 10 years there will be increased pressure on all schools in Kingston to expand in addition to the new School in North Kingston. Our gradual expansion will contribute to providing spaces at 11+ entry and post 16 where, with the increases resulting from all students having to be in education, training or employment and training up to 19 in the next three years, it is already starting to stretch post 16 provision.

The Governing body keeps the admission criteria of the school under annual review and will consider the points raised in the consultation concerning these criteria. Any proposed changes in the criteria will go out for consultation in the normal admissions consultation round.

Conclusion:

Having considered the responses received to the consultation, the Governors have decided to proceed with the expansion of the School.

Next steps:

This report will be displayed on the School website for the next two months.

The Governors of Tiffin School will be applying to the Secretary of State to carry out the plan for the expansion of the School as outlined in the consultation. This report will form part of the application. Any changes to subsequent admissions policies will go through the usual channels of consultation as set out in the Admissions Code.

26 September 2013