

Appendix B



inspiring excellence

Headteacher: Mr T Carroll Tel: 01525 636700 Fax: 01525 636701

Email: office@vandyke.cbeds.co.uk Web: www.vandyke.beds.sch.uk

Mr Victor Wan
Senior Education Officer (Planning)
Central Bedfordshire Council
Watling House
High Street North
Dunstable
Bedfordshire LU6 1LF

20 November 2018

Dear Victor

Re: Consultation on expansion of Vandyke Upper School

A public consultation on the proposed expansion of Vandyke Upper School by two forms of entry for September 2020 was held between 11 October and 15 November 2018.

A public meeting was held at 6pm on 17 October. Two families attended the meeting. Two meetings for staff and two student meetings were held during the school day.

17 written responses were received. One was from a neighbouring local authority, Buckinghamshire CC, which raised no objections. One was from a current student, one was from a governor. Two were from staff, the others were from current parents although several also fitted in other categories too.

A summary of the feedback received was posted on the school website.

15 responses were in support of the proposals (88%). Some stated reasons for supporting the proposal and some supported the proposals but raised possible concerns. These included ensuring the ethos and ambience of the school remain and that becoming a larger school does not mean it becomes impersonal, that students' learning is not disrupted by construction work, the wish to see further improvements to facilities beyond the proposals, a focus on ensuring sufficient dining and social space, and a welcome that a popular and successful school expands to allow more local children to benefit from its provision.

Comments included, "I am definitely in favour of expanding the school to make sure there are enough places for the growing population. I would not wish future students to end up having no choice due to a shortage of places. However, I would not want the school to become so big that it was impersonal" (parent of current student); "This is an ideal opportunity to provide modern facilities fit for purpose for the students of Vandyke and to meet the growing demands for school places within Leighton Buzzard. The current science labs and maths classrooms are not fit for purpose and thought must be given to making sure that the new provision is the best possible" (parent of current student); "Vandyke is an amazing school and will benefit the children in the local area" (parent of a current student) and "This is badly needed by the town and is the obvious solution" (employee of the school).

2 of the responses did not support the proposals. The reasons given included possible disruption to existing students and a more general concern about housing growth and development in the town.

Comments included, "This would be taking place when my child is doing his GCSEs. As you know that is a very important year for my child" (parent of current student) and "Billington Park and Sandhills are prime examples of getting things wrong for Leighton Buzzard residents. We no longer live in the town as a result of very bad traffic congestion and a severe lack of amenities" (parent of a current student).

The school has a good track record of managing construction work, adding 200 places in 2014 with minimal disruption to the day-to-day running of the school. The proposed location of the construction site will reduce any impact as it is quite separate from the existing school and has good access away from teaching areas. Where possible, significant heavy work will take place outside of school hours. Arrangements for construction and for site management will carefully take account of not disrupting the work of students and staff.

Following consideration of feedback from the consultation, the governing body supports the proposed expansion of the school and wishes to proceed.

Yours sincerely

Tim Carroll
Headteacher