Kent County Council would like to hear your views on a proposal to relocate Laleham Gap School from both its current sites to new purpose built school buildings on a site at New Haine Road, Ramsgate from January 2015. It is also proposed to increase the designated number of the school from 152 to 170.

Date of Public Meeting:
Thursday 2 May at 6 pm at Laleham Gap School, Northdown Park Road, Margate, CT9 2TP

www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations
1. Introduction

Laleham Gap School was established in April 2005 as the County’s specialist provision for high functioning pupils aged 3 to 16 years with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or Speech and Language disorders. The school was the amalgamation of Laleham School and Gap House School and since 2005 has continued to operate across both sites.

In 2009 it was proposed to relocate the school to new buildings at Pysons Road in Ramsgate through the Government’s Building Schools for the Future programme (BSF), but this funding was withdrawn following a change of government.

In May 2012, KCC Education Cabinet Committee agreed to the development of a Strategy for Special Educational Needs and Disability for the children and young people of Kent.

The overarching aim of the strategy is to improve the health, well being, attainment and progress, and the quality of provision, for children and young people with special education needs and/or disabilities. An important aspect of this will be to review and develop the capacity of special schools – defining their existing offer and building in capacity to respond to future need, ensuring that the needs of Kent children are able to be met within their locality.

2. The proposal

This proposal is coming forward following a successful bid for funding to rebuild the school through the Government’s Priority Schools Building programme which replaces BSF and it will mean that for the first time the school can be consolidated in purposed built buildings on a single site.

The proposed new site is at New Haine Road in Ramsgate as indicated on the map on the back of this document.

3. What Happens Next?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 April to 27 May 2013</td>
<td>Public consultation period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 May 2013 at 6 pm</td>
<td>Public meeting at the school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 June to 19 July 2013</td>
<td>The Cabinet Member decides whether to continue with the proposal. If so, KCC will publish a Public Notice in a local newspaper, at the school and in public places like the library. During this time comments and objections can be made about the proposal. The Public Notice will run for 6 weeks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>The Cabinet Member considers all responses made and decides whether to proceed with the proposal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2015</td>
<td>Implementation if the proposal is agreed.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
4. How To Give Your Views

There are a number of ways you can let us have your views:

- Complete and return the response form to: Marisa White, Area Education Officer, East Kent Education Office, Brook House, Reeves Way, Whitstable, CT5 3SS.
- Come to the public meeting at the school: Thursday 2 May at 6p.m.
- Email your comments to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk
- View and respond to the consultation online at: www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

We will note all you say, but will not be able to respond individually to response forms, letters or emails.

Patrick Leeson
Corporate Director
Education, Learning and Skills

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Public Consultation Response Form :

Proposed Re-location of Laleham Gap School

Please return no later than 11am on Monday 27 May 2013

You can also email your views to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

Do you agree with the proposal?  □  Yes  □  No

I am:  *A Parent/Carer, Member of Staff, Governor, Other interested party

.............................................................. (please state).

* Please delete as appropriate

Name:

Address:

Kent County Council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998 and will comply with the requirements of the Act at all times. We will ensure that your personal information is processed fairly and lawfully and in this instance used only for the purpose of validation, which will enable a fair and just consultation.
We have completed an Equality Impact Assessment to see if the proposal could affect anyone unfairly. We welcome your views on the assumptions we have made and the conclusions we have drawn. To view the document, go to www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations or contact schoolconsultations@kent.gov.uk.

You can view the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision Kent 2012 – 2017 at:
www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/plans_and_consultations/education_plans.aspx