Proposed Change:
Kent County Council would like to hear your views on the proposal to increase the designated number of places offered at Broomhill Bank from 80 places to 136 places by September 2014.

Date of Public Meeting:
Date: 21 January 2014
Time: 7pm
Venue: Broomhill Bank School, Broomhill Road, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN3 0TB

For parents who are unable to make the above meeting there will also be a drop-in information session held at the school on Thursday 6th February 13:00-15:00pm

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

Kent County Council and the Governing Body of Broomhill Bank School are proposing to increase the designated number of places offered from 80 places to 136 places by improving and expanding the existing facilities.

We are currently undertaking a public consultation to seek the views of the wider community on the educational merits of this proposal. The public consultation will run from 10 January 2014 to 26 February 2014. There will be a public meeting on Tuesday, 21st January 2014 which will give you an opportunity to make your views known and to ask any questions you have. We are also hosting a drop-in session on Thursday 6th February 13.00-15.00pm which will provide parents who are unable to make the public meeting with an opportunity to ask questions and find out further information.

This document gives you details of the proposal and information on the background and current position. There is a form at the end of this document which we ask you to complete and return to us by 26 February 2014.

2. Background to the proposal

This proposal forms part of a programme to deliver Kent County Council’s commitment to rebuild or refurbish all of our special school buildings and to reduce the pressure on in-county school places.

Broomhill Bank is a successful special school that is highly effective in meeting the complex and diverse needs of its students. The school is situated at Rusthall, on the edge of Tunbridge Wells. The school was previously a day and residential all girls special school for learners with moderate learning difficulties. However, following a re-designation in 2008, the school became a co-educational school for students from 5-19 with communication and interaction difficulties.

The residential provision ceased in 2012 and the school is now designated for 80 students aged 11-19, which includes up to 30 places in the Further Education Department. The school also supports a large number of students in local mainstream schools and provides training for mainstream staff through outreach services.

Over time, the number of students admitted to the school has increased, with the provision of temporary accommodation as necessary. The current roll stands at 92.

Kent County Council’s strategy for children and young people with special educational needs and who are disabled (SEND) identified the need to add 275 additional SEN places in Kent for pupils with Autism and Behavioural Needs. 175 of these places will be in special schools.

3. The proposal

We are pleased to bring you our proposal to increase the designated number of students at Broomhill Bank from 80 places to 136. This would be accommodated through improvements, expansion and development of the current site.

The KCC funded improvements to the school will provide all necessary general teaching rooms including specialist teaching spaces. Facilities within the school will be greatly improved and designed to meet the needs of the students.

We will need to seek planning consent and detailed plans would be developed, subject to the agreement to proceed. The first tranche of new facilities will be completed in time for admission of the extended September 2014 cohort.

Please note that whilst the proposal is to increase the designation number for September 2014, the number of pupils on roll will be increased incrementally between September 2014 and September 2017.

There will be opportunities for you to see plans and further details as we move through the process.
4. What happens next?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 2014</td>
<td>Following the consultation, all views received, either by post, e-mail or at the Public Meeting, will be reported to the Education Cabinet Committee.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2014</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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<td>May 2014</td>
<td>The Cabinet Member considers all responses made and decides whether to go ahead.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 2014</td>
<td>Implementation, subject to agreement</td>
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5. How to give your views

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

- **Complete and return the response form overleaf to:** Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer for West Kent, Commercial Buildings, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, Kent ME19 4QG Fax: (01732) 525223

- **Come to the Public Meeting:** 7pm, Tuesday 21 January 2014 at Broomhill Bank School, Broomhill Road, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells TN3 0TB.

- **Come to the Drop in Session:** 13.00 -15:00pm, Thursday 6 February 2014 at Broomhill Bank School, Broomhill Road, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells TN3 0TB.

- **Email your comments to:** school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

- **You can also view the consultation information online at:** [www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://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.)

Please provide your comments overleaf.
We have completed an Equality Impact Assessment to see if the options 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.

Public Consultation Response Form: Broomhill Bank School
Please return no later than 11am on Wednesday, 26 February 2014
You can also email your views to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

Do you agree with the proposal? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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

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* Please delete as appropriate

Name:
Address:

Please write your comments below.