NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION FOR THANET

Tell us what you think about the plans for a new Secondary school in Margate on the former Royal School for the Deaf site

The need for a new school: Kent County Council (KCC) is responsible for ensuring there are sufficient high quality school places for all learners in the County. At the same time we have to fulfil our other responsibilities - to raise education standards and be the champion of children and their families in securing good quality education. Our Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2017-2021 is key to achieving our aims and identifies the need for new school provision across Kent, including up to 8FE in Thanet district in the medium term and 10FE in the longer term as new housing developments proceed.

The new school: KCC will commission a new 6FE Secondary School to be established (subject to completion of purchase) on the former Royal School for the Deaf site as part of the plans for providing additional Secondary school capacity in Thanet. The Royal School for the Deaf closed at the end of 2015 when the Trust running the school went into administration. This is now an ideal opportunity to ensure the site remains in use for educational purposes, rather than residential development. The new Secondary school will provide 900 places for pupils aged 11 to 16 years and is planned to open in September 2020. Initially we would expect the school to operate four or five Year 7 classes (120-150 places) and anticipate that the school will grow over a number of years to support the planned 900 places. As a need for Year 7 places is predicted for entry in September 2019, there may be a possibility to open the new school in September 2019 in alternative accommodation until the new school buildings are ready. KCC will also seek ways to provide additional capacity with the Thanet Secondary schools should the establishment of the new Secondary school be delayed.

Special Educational Needs: We are also taking the opportunity to include, within the new school, a 15 place Specialist Resourced Provision for pupils whose primary barrier to learning is Social and Emotional needs, with some pupils having a medical diagnosis of Autism.

Where are we now? KCC is currently seeking promoters to run the new school through a competition process. Legislation presumes the new school will be a “free school”. This is an academy school which receives its revenue budget directly from central government each year. Potential promoters will need to submit an application to us by 15 January 2018. The Secretary of State will decide who is the successful promoter and we anticipate this decision will be made by the end of April 2018. The successful promoter will be required to carry out a consultation with the local community, when you will have an opportunity to comment on their plans.

How to let us know your views:

- Email your views to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk
- Send a letter to: Marisa White, Area Education Officer, East Kent Education Office, Brook House, Whitstable, CT5 3SS

Final date for sending in your views and comments is 15 January 2018

Further information can also be found on KCC website at: www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision
Information on the website will be updated over the coming months.

PTO to see the possible layout for the new school