Dear Parents/Carers, Staff and Other Interested Parties

The Governors of Ursuline College would like to hear your views on a proposal to expand the school. This document is part of a four week consultation process which opens on 8 January and closes on 5 February 2018.

Kent County Council (KCC) as the Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. At their request, the Governors have agreed that a consultation should be carried out.

Introduction
Over recent years the primary population has been increasing and this is now beginning to move into the secondary phase. KCC is required to look at options for providing additional secondary school capacity in Thanet, which is why it has asked Ursuline College to consider expansion.

Having additional students would provide financial benefits for the school. The additional accommodation would offer our current and future students improved facilities making a positive impact upon their learning and aspirations. Expansion may potentially provide the opportunity to enhance teaching and career opportunities for staff, which in turn would benefit the learning experience of the children.

KCC is also consulting on a proposal to commission a new six form entry Secondary school (Free School) for Thanet on the former Royal School for Deaf Children site in Margate. KCC is seeking suitable sponsors to run the new school via the Department for Education’s Free School Presumption competition route. KCC is expecting that up to an additional ten forms of entry will be required to provide sufficient secondary school places in Thanet during the period 2019 to 2024. The new Secondary school and the expansion of Ursuline College form part of KCC’s plans to provide additional Secondary school capacity in Thanet. For further information visit the KCC website where you will find the Kent Commissioning Plan and information about commissioning new school provision: www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision

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Ursuline Expansion Process
KCC is currently undertaking feasibility, design and planning work for providing the school with additional accommodation and facilities, with a view to submitting a planning application at an appropriate time in the expansion process. Consideration of the issues arising out of the physical expansion of the school such as parking and the impact on traffic will be included in the planning process. Options will be looked at for providing sufficient accommodation to increase the capacity of the school by two forms of entry (60 additional places per year). It is proposed that the school expansion would start in September 2019 when the admission number for Year 7 entry would increase from 120 to 180. There will be a further consultation on the plans for the new accommodation and facilities prior to submission of a planning application, including an opportunity to attend a drop-in session at the school to view the plans and designs.

How the decision will be reached
A business case and a financial plan will be submitted to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to request approval to expand the school. This will include a summary of the public consultation and the views and comments received. The ESFA will analyse the business case and the financial plan and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will then either approve or reject the proposal to permanently expand the school.

The school currently has enough accommodation to admit additional Year 7 students in September 2018 and Governors have agreed with KCC to provide extra places so that there are sufficient Year 7 places to meet the predicted demand for entry next September. This would be considered a temporary expansion until the outcome of the planning application and the Secretary of State’s decision is known.

How to give your views on the Education Consultation
The consultation runs for four weeks and during that time you can respond to the consultation by completing the response form at the back of this document and sending it to Andrew Fuller, Business Manager, at the school. You can also email your response and any questions you may have to consultation@ursuline.kent.sch.uk. The final date for sending in a response is 5 February 2018. Copies of all documents relating to the consultation can be found on the school’s website: WWW.Ursuline.kent.sch.uk and on KCC’s website at www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

S Adamson
Executive Headteacher
Consultation on a proposal to permanently expand Ursuline College

Do you agree with the proposal? YES / NO

I am a: Parent/Carer / Member of Staff / Governor / Pupil / Other Interested Party (please delete as appropriate) of Ursuline College

If you are an ‘Other Interested Party’, please state your interest

Name:

Address:

Comments:

Please continue overleaf if necessary

Please return your form to:

Andrew Fuller, Business Manager, Ursuline College, 225, Westgate-on-Sea or email consultation@ursuline.kent.sch.uk

Deadline – Monday 5 February 2018 at 4 pm