



Hanley Castle High School

Proposed Expansion of Physical Capacity Consultation (1st April 2019 – 24th May 2019)



1. The proposal

To expand the physical capacity of Hanley Castle High School from its published 11-18 capacity of 1023 (Supplemental Funding Agreement, March 2017) to 1113 to accommodate up to 90 additional pupils generated by an increase in our Published Admission Number (PAN) from 162 to 180 from September 2020.

2. Context

During the last four years, discussions have been ongoing between the school and Worcestershire Local Authority regarding demographic growth forecasts for our catchment area as a result of the Worcester South Urban Extension, outlined in the South Worcestershire Development Plan.

A significant number of these homes have now been built or are under construction. More construction is set to commence, including 2,600 mixed tenure homes in the wider Kempsey, South Worcester and Norton areas, many of which will be in the Hanley Castle catchment area.

Smaller scale developments are also under construction or planned in Upton and Welland.

As a result, the number of applications for places at Hanley Castle High School, both at our Year 7 point of entry and in-year, has increased significantly. This increase in applications seems set to accelerate.

3. The process so far

In May 2018, the LA formally requested a meeting with the school to discuss the need for additional secondary places in and around the City of Worcester. It was agreed that, while Hanley Castle was prepared to increase its PAN from 162 to 180, the capacity of the current accommodation was not sufficient to permit the admission of additional pupils. Any agreement to admit additional pupils would therefore be contingent on Basic Need funding to provide additional accommodation and facilities.

A PAN increase from 162 to 180 was formally approved by the Local Governing Body of Hanley Castle (June 2018), and subsequently by the Hanley and Upton Educational Trust (July 2018), contingent on the provision of sufficient Basic Need funding as detailed above.

In February 2019, Worcestershire County Council formally approved the schools' capital programme budget for 2019/20. The programme includes Basic Need funding for schools situated in areas where there is significant existing or planned demographic growth.

Part of the funding approved has now been allocated to Hanley Castle, allowing the school to implement the proposed PAN increase for September 2020.

4. Details of the proposed expansion to accommodation and facilities

Hanley Castle High School is a sensitive site. There are no proposals in relation to the expansion which will have a major impact on the physical footprint of the school.

Planning permission has already been gained for an extension to the mathematics and humanities building. An application to modify this approved extension to accommodate four, rather than two, additional classrooms is now being prepared.

Other expansion projects under consideration are more modest and are situated in the centre of the school – for example a proposal to expand dining facilities by converting an existing classroom, to add a classroom to a drama studio in the inner quadrangle and to return an existing converted classroom back to a room suitable for design, technology and engineering.

5. The potential impact on other schools

Although the school has previously admitted some students from out-of-catchment, particularly from Malvern and St John's in Worcester, increased pupil numbers in our catchment area have meant that, in the last two years, our new Year 7 intakes have comprised almost exclusively of children from within our catchment area or those attending our feeder schools. The only exceptions to this have been looked after children, children where Hanley Castle is named on the EHCP, children admitted on appeal, the children of members of staff and siblings of existing students who live out-of-catchment.

The number of out-of-catchment siblings admitted is now beginning to reduce (down from 36 in September 2018 to 19 in September 2019). This downward trend will continue, allowing us to take more children from the new housing developments. However, significant pressure remains, with in-year admission requests from the parents of children moving into our catchment area rising steeply, and literally hundreds more homes under construction.

The rapid growth in housing in Kempsey has resulted in Kempsey Primary School increasing its PAN from 40 to 45 for September 2018, with an increase to two-form entry requested by the Local Authority for September 2020.

Due to all these factors, the Hanley Castle PAN increase is unlikely to have a negative impact on other secondary schools. As mentioned above, the school no longer has the capacity to take significant numbers of children from out-of-catchment, and those siblings who remain will gradually work their way through the school and will not be replaced. This should lead to a more balanced position for other schools, with local children, for example in Malvern and South Worcester, being allocated to their local secondary schools as Hanley Castle becomes more focused on accepting students from within its catchment area to the east of the River Severn.

6. Impact on traffic

It is likely that the provision of places for up to 90 additional pupils, largely drawn from Kempsey and the surrounding areas, will have a neutral impact on traffic in Hanley Castle. This is because the vast majority of pupils from this area are entitled to free bus passes and the take-up of school transport from east of the River Severn is almost 100%.

In addition, public service buses provide additional capacity, particularly for sixth form students.

A further positive factor is that there is likely to be a reduction in the number of pupils attending the school from Malvern and Worcester (see above). As many of these children do not live in catchment they have not been entitled to free school transport. As a result, many parents have chosen to drop off and collect these pupils by car to save on public bus fares. The extra traffic generated should now start to decline.

The school will also continue to work on sustainable solutions for children from Upton and

Hanley Swan to increase the number of pupils walking and cycling to school.

7. The consultation

Hanley Castle High School is its own admission authority. As such, there is no requirement for it to consult on the increase to its PAN.

However, there is a requirement for the school to consult on the expansion of the physical capacity of its buildings to provide places for the additional 90 pupils the change will, over time, generate.

The school values highly the views and opinions of the community within which it operates. The formal period of consultation begins on 1st April 2019 and runs until 24th May 2019.

This consultation document will be posted on the school website, while letters will be sent to local schools and other stakeholders.

Your views on the proposal should be submitted to the school, in writing, by Friday 24th May 2019. This will enable the local governing body and HUET Trustees to take your views into account as they decide how the school should move forward.

The formal period of consultation begins on 1st April 2019 and runs until 24th May 2019.

All consultation responses will be considered carefully before a final decision is taken by the HUET trustees. If the proposed expansion is approved following the consultation, Hanley Castle High School will submit a 'significant change' application to the Regional Schools Commissioner.



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