



BOURNEMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Consultation Document

Proposal affecting Kings High School

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May 2009

PROPOSAL TO REPLACE KINGS HIGH SCHOOL WITH AN ACADEMY

CURRENT POSITION

Kings High School is currently for pupils aged 11-16 with 650 places available. It opened in September 2000 and is a specialist school for the Visual and Performing Arts.

In recent years Kings High has not achieved the level of attainment across the curriculum that we would expect and has therefore been monitored by both the Council and OFSTED. It is a National Challenge school because its results are below a minimum standard set by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Kings High now has the opportunity to be transformed under the Government Academy initiative, with new buildings and facilities delivered as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed to close Kings High School with effect from 31 August 2010 and to immediately establish in its place an Academy offering education for 650 pupils between the ages of 11-16, growing to 1050 pupils aged 11-19.

This document sets out the proposal to replace Kings High School with the new Academy and should be read alongside other documents produced by the Sponsors for the Kings High Academy. These will give you a full picture of how the Sponsors and the Council, with their education partner Bournemouth & Poole College, intend to transform secondary education.

All consultation documents for both the closure of Kings High School and for the proposed new Academy can be found online at www.bsf-bournemouth-poole.co.uk/have_your_say.cfm

FIRST STAGE - THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

Bournemouth Borough Council wishes to consult:

- parents/carers, governors and staff of Kings High School
- parents/carers of children in Early Years Settings, and primary schools in the Kings High catchment,
- headteachers and governors of all Bournemouth schools,
- neighbouring local authorities,
- other interested parties.

A public meeting will be held at Kings High school on Tuesday, 19 May 2009 6.30 - 8.00pm. At this meeting there will be an opportunity to express your views and ask questions of representatives of the Council and the Sponsors of the proposed Academy.

You are invited to complete the response form enclosed with this document. The document can also be accessed at www.bournemouth.gov.uk or www.bsf-bournemouth-poole.co.uk/have_your_say.cfm.

Parents/carers are asked to complete one form only, irrespective of how many children they might have attending the school or setting. Forms must be returned by **Friday, 26 June 2009** at the latest to:

Children's Services
Bournemouth Borough Council
Dorset House
20-22 Christchurch Road
Bournemouth BH1 3NL

Tel: 01202-456376 Fax: 01202-456191

Email: academy@bournemouth.gov.uk

At the end of the consultation period written responses will be summarised in a report to the Council which will make a decision on how best to proceed. All views expressed will be taken into account, but it should be emphasised that the Response Forms do **not** represent a ballot.

THE NEXT STAGE

If the Council decides to go ahead with the proposal, Public Notices will be published in the local newspaper and at the school. There is then a period of six weeks during which time formal objections/comments may be submitted to the Council.

OUTCOME

At the end of the Public Notice period, the matter will be referred to the Cabinet of the Council, which has the power to approve the proposal or not. Cabinet will see all the responses received.

OPTIONS

The following options are under consideration:

Option 1	To establish an Academy at Kings High offering education for 1050 pupils between the ages of 11-19 opening on 1 September 2010. This would replace the existing Kings High School which would close on 31 August 2010.
Option 2	No change
Option 3	Any other new option which may arise during the course of consultation

REPLACING KINGS HIGH SCHOOL WITH A NEW ACADEMY

Frequently asked questions

Why replace Kings High? Why not leave it as it is?

Although Kings High has been targeted for improvement the results have not been as good as expected and we think there is more that can be done to help its pupils do even better. There has been enormous effort by staff and governors but the school has not achieved as much as hoped. It is generally accepted that results across the board need to improve.

The council has a legal duty to take action when schools are facing challenges but cannot give the school extra funds to recruit new staff or buy new resources. As the council is committed to keeping a secondary school at Kings High, the council thinks the best course of action is to replace it with a new Academy from September 2010.

Why will a new Academy be better than Kings High School?

Academies provide a new kind of secondary education. Each Academy is sponsored by an experienced organisation who bring with them skills, expertise and resources. In the case of Kings High the sponsor is Canford School supported by Bournemouth and Poole College as an education partner. Academies transform how and what our children learn and will be equipped with state-of-the-art teaching materials, technology and resources.

This Academy will offer a wide-ranging and flexible curriculum that specialises in English and Engineering & Design.

We believe that the Academy will improve pupils' motivation and aspirations, give them more confidence in their abilities, and help them gain the skills and qualifications they need when they leave school. It will also develop a new 6th Form, providing opportunities for young people to stay in learning as the age of participation is raised to 18.

Finally, the Academy and its facilities will be open to the local community, with extended opening hours ensuring everyone will be able to access it when they need to.

For more information about the proposed Kings High Academy, please refer to the separate brochure produced by the sponsors, Canford School.

What about new buildings?

The proposed Academy will be part of the joint Bournemouth and Poole Building Schools for the Future programme. Current proposals are for the Academy to be one of the first two schools to benefit from this programme and for over three quarters of the current buildings to be replaced with modern facilities designed in consultation with staff and students to deliver 21st century learning. (A small portion of the existing facilities are already fit for purpose). Building should begin in 2011. This really will be a once in a lifetime opportunity and students at schools that have already benefited from this programme report real excitement and new motivation to learn.

If Kings High closes will its current pupils be guaranteed a place at the Academy that replaces it?

Yes - there will be enough places at the new Academy for all Kings High pupils. Parents and carers do not have to send their child to the new Academy unless they wish to however, as they can ask that their child attend any other Bournemouth secondary

school or Academy. If there are vacancies, their child will be given a place. If there are no vacancies, their child's name can either go onto the waiting list for this school or their parents and carers can appeal for a place. In short, the system of allocating places stays the way it is at present.

If Kings High closes how will this affect parents and carers whose children are due to transfer to secondary school in September 2010?

The Academy will be part of Bournemouth Borough Council's co-ordinated admissions arrangements and parents and carers will be able to apply for a place in the normal way.

Will parents and carers have to pay for their child to go to the Academy?

No - Academies provide free secondary education for all pupils.

If Kings High closes what will happen to the pupils with special educational needs?

The new Academy will be a fully inclusive school that provides education and support for children in line with all other schools in Bournemouth.

If Kings High closes, what will happen to the staff?

The governing body of the new Academy will be responsible for appointing staff. Once appointed, the Principal Designate will develop and get governing body approval for a curriculum plan, a timetable, a teaching staff structure and a support staffing structure, to ensure curriculum delivery and the effective operation of the Academy.

Existing Kings High staff who have corresponding roles in the new Academy will transfer to the new Academy under the "Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment" regulations (TUPE).

If an Academy replaces Kings High School, will children still be entitled to free travel passes and free school meals?

Pupils attending Academies will be entitled to free travel passes and free school meals in exactly the same way as those attending secondary schools.

What happens next?

The new Academy cannot open until Kings High School has been formally closed. To bring this about the Council has to follow a legal process to ensure that interested parties can make comments or register objections before the final decision is made.

The existing school and the Academy sponsors are continuing to work with the Building Schools for the Future team in working up a vision and designs for the new buildings. Existing and future students play an important part in this process.

Further information

If you need any more information about any aspect of the proposals, please contact us on (01202) 456376.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families also provides information about Academies at www.standards.dcf.gov.uk/academies/

Thank you for taking time to read this leaflet and the other consultation literature.