



24 June 2016

Dear Consultee

Consultation on the proposal to enlarge the premises of Hitchin Boys' School and Hitchin Girls' School.

The Governing Bodies of Hitchin Boys' and Hitchin Girls' Schools are consulting on the proposal to enlarge Hitchin Boys' School and Hitchin Girls' School by 1.5fe (forms of entry) from September 2018. Should this proposal proceed, this will support the permanent expansion in the size of both schools, allowing an increase in the number of Year 7 places available from 165 to 210. This will mean that an additional 45 Year 7 places will be available at each school from September 2018, and in each subsequent year thereafter.

As Academies, this proposal is being brought forward by the Governing Bodies of Hitchin Boys' School and Hitchin Girls' School, supported by Hertfordshire County Council, as part of a long term strategy to ensure sufficient secondary school places are available across the area.

Why is this being proposed?

The County Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places across its area and has been working closely with the three secondary schools in Hitchin to understand future demand and explore possible options for meeting this.

Hitchin has already experienced increased demand for secondary school places, with The Priory School agreeing with the County Council to offer additional places at Year 7 in the last two years to meet a local demand, increasing the number of Year 7 places available at the school temporarily from 180 to 210.

The County Council has identified the need for an additional permanent 3 forms of entry for secondary places from September 2018 in order to meet demand from the local area, with further secondary capacity required in the longer term.

The proposal to expand Hitchin Boys' School and Hitchin Girls' School is therefore being brought forward as the first stage of a town-wide strategy to ensure sufficient secondary places are available for Hitchin for the future. The proposal will increase the number of Year 7 places available by 3fe (90 Year 7 places) from September 2018.

Further information on the County Council's student forecasts is available on its website at: www.hertsdirect.org/schoolplaces.

What this proposal means

Both schools would require building works to provide additional classrooms and facilities to accommodate the additional places. The County Council's Cabinet has approved capital funding to support these building works if Governors agree to proceed with the expansion proposal. The building schemes will be managed by the schools and, once designed, will require town planning consent which will involve a separate planning consultation in due course. The building works will ensure that the increasing number of students who live in Hitchin will be able to attend a school in their local area.

Hitchin Boys' School

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www.hbs.herts.sch.uk
Registered in England No. 8286295



Hitchin Girls' School

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Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG4 9RS
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How will it affect Admissions?

If the Governing Bodies decide to proceed with this proposal following the consultation exercise, a further consultation on changes to the Admission Criteria for each school will take place in the Autumn Term 2016. The County Council is working closely with the three secondary schools in Hitchin and the two in Letchworth to understand future demand for places and possible options for meeting this.

Have your say

The Governing Bodies are keen to hear your views on the proposal to expand Hitchin Boys' School and Hitchin Girls' School by 1.5fe from September 2018. The consultation will run for four weeks.

You have until **22 July 2016** to let us know your views. The easiest way you can do this is by sending an email or writing to us as follows:

Hitchin Boys' School

consultation@hitchinboys.co.uk

Expansion Consultation
Hitchin Boys' School
Grammar School Walk
Hitchin
Herts.
SG5 1JB

Hitchin Girls' School

consultation@hgs.herts.sch.uk

Expansion Consultation
Hitchin Girls' School
Highbury Road
Hitchin
Herts.
SG4 9RS

Your comments must be received by **22 July 2016**.

How the decision will be taken

This is a consultation and no decision has been made yet.

The Governing Body of each school will meet in September to consider the comments received during this consultation before making a final decision on whether to proceed with the expansion proposal. The three key questions that will be considered are:

- Is it right for the school?
- Is it right for the students?
- Is it right for the community?

The following timetable outlines the decision-making process:

Process	Date
Consultation on proposal	27 June - 22 July 2016
Governing Body meets to consider responses	13 September 2016

The outcome of the consultation will be published on the school websites following the Governing Body meetings. If the Governing Bodies decide to proceed with the expansion proposal, there will be a series of further steps and these will be then be advised.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Kerr McPhee
Chair of Governors
Hitchin Boys' School



Mr. Chris Hall
Chair of Governors
Hitchin Girls' School