



The Warriner School
Sixth Form Informal Consultation
Response by Governing Body
January 2012



The Governing Body of The Warriner School is delighted by the level of response received from the community and the overwhelming support contained within it. Of the 52 formal responses received, 34 (65%) were from existing parents, 5 were from future parents, 4 were from our partner primaries, 2 were from local schools that currently receive our students for post 16 courses. The remaining 6 were from the local parish council, a member of staff, our student council, the YPLA and Warwickshire and Northamptonshire county councils on behalf of schools that receive our post 16 students.

The feedback received from both present and future parents is overwhelmingly supportive of the proposals citing the following reasons:

- Students would benefit from continuity of education
- The outstanding support given to students with special educational needs by The Warriner School and how such students would benefit from being able to remain here for their post 16 education
- Benefits from familiarity with teachers and the quality of teaching and pastoral care at The Warriner School
- Limiting schools to 11-16 being an out-dated concept
- The long distances students currently have to travel to post 16 courses would no longer be an issue
- Increasing choice within the local community
- The positive impact post 16 students would have on the school
- Students who may otherwise have not remained in education would potentially be more likely to stay on if they did not have to change schools

They also raised the following concerns:

- Insufficient toilet facilities and canteen capacity
- How the development of a viable sixth form would work in practice

Our Partner Primary schools are fully supportive of the proposal stating that parents who currently do not choose The Warriner School at transition in year 7 due to a lack of post 16 provision would cease to do so. Queries were raised about transport for post 16 students and the need for a full range of subjects.

As anticipated, concerns were expressed by two of the local schools who currently receive our students for post 16 courses. These include Banbury (both from their federation and trust) and Chipping Norton Schools who raise the following:

- How Banbury school is closer to The Warriner School than OCVC who we are working in partnership with
- The need to work in partnership with local existing providers
- Lack of evidence for a dip in performance if students change schools and for the impact post 16 students would have on the wider school community
- Impact upon capacity within existing schools through duplication of provision
- How small sixth forms are ineffective
- How money designated to KS3 and 4 will be diverted into post 16 students

Northamptonshire County Council representing Chenderit School who also receive a significant number of our students express their support of the proposal whilst wishing to maintain partnership links. Warwickshire County Council who represent schools were relatively small numbers of our students go, express concern over the impact their potential loss would have.

The response of the Governing Body of The Warriner School to the concerns raised is as follows. A full facilities capacity analysis has been undertaken and has been taken into consideration. The need for a new, dedicated sixth form block was identified from this analysis. In addition to classrooms and a common room, this will contain toilet and self-catering facilities. Post 16 students will also be able to make use of offsite catering within Bloxham so will have minimal impact upon the existing canteen.

The proposed development plan of initially providing a reduced package of subjects should minimise the short term impact upon other schools. We are very keen to work in partnership with local providers, hence already building links with our trust partner OCVC. If we are to be successful and as the sixth form grows we would wish to increase the opportunity for local collaboration greatly and are delighted that Banbury School would be willing to move this forward.

We do not feel that the gradual growth of a sixth form will be ineffective. If we were to offer a full menu of subjects from day one then this would be an issue as numbers of students on courses could be low and we do not yet have the necessary skilled staff in post. We do have skilled, highly experienced staff in place for the subjects within our initial package (namely Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Geography and Applied Farm based courses). Staff will be drawn from within The Warriner School and our partner OCVC. These staff have teaching capacity so there will be no financial detriment to existing members of The Warriner School. These subjects have also been chosen to complement provision at OCVC and at the recommendation of OCC. We will then offer further packages of subjects in future years depending upon need and capacity.

With regard to capacity within local schools, the countywide capacity analysis completed by Oxfordshire County Council that takes into account existing need and planned growth, allocates post 16 places to The Warriner School with no detriment to other local providers.

We strongly believe that there is a need for post 16 provision at The Warriner School for all the reasons stated within our consultation document. We do not feel that any of the points raised within the initial feedback prevent us from moving forward to formal consultation.

Mandy Morris

Chair of Governors. The Warriner School