Raising Attainment and Creating Opportunities for Local Children

John Hampden Grammar Schools (JHGS) is proud to be a school for the community. The school was established over 100 years ago to provide more skilled workers to support the burgeoning furniture industry in the town. Today we are committed to raising the level of attainment and achievement of young people in Wycombe and the local area to enable them to capitalise on the diverse career opportunities that exist locally, nationally and internationally. We have partnered with the Furniture Makers Livery Company and we work with internationally recognised industries to ensure that the educational experience we deliver is relevant and innovative. We pride ourselves in the balanced, well rounded and high achieving students who leave the school.

The Government recently announced an allocation of £50m for Grammar Schools to bid to enable them to expand. The purpose of the Selective Schools Expansion Fund (SSEF) is to support schools where

- there is a need for additional places in the local area and a demand from parents for more selective places
- schools have ambitious and realistic plans for increasing access for disadvantaged pupils (pupil premium children)
- they have plans to work with other local schools to increase access for disadvantaged pupils and raise attainment

The purpose of this consultation is to set out the school’s plans to bid for the new funding and to seek your views. JHGS will be submitting an application to bid for a proportion of the £50m allocated as we meet all of the above criteria. Judged by Ofsted as outstanding, we are already over-subscribed and we want more pupils to benefit from the opportunities that the school can offer. Pupil premium children make better progress at JHGS than in other local Grammar Schools at GCSE. In addition, we are consistently the highest performing Buckinghamshire Grammar School in terms of Value Added at A level. We work closely with local Primary schools to develop effective strategies for raising the attainment of all children, whether they are in receipt of Free School Meals or otherwise, and regardless of their background.

From September 2019 JHGS will be taking an additional 30 children in Year 7 (an increase in Pupil Admission Number (PAN) from 150 to 180). For admission in September 2020 the school proposes to take an additional 30 children into Year 9 for one year, a “bulge” class. This would enable students that are “late developers” to have another opportunity to join a Grammar School. This proposal will be contained in our 2020 Admissions Policy which will be circulated for consultation for 6 weeks between October 1st 2018 and January 31st 2019. Subject to the school being successful in its SSEF bid this would mean that by 2022 an additional 150 places would be available for students through years 7-11 with further places available in the Sixth Form as the school expands.

JHGS will use the money from the SSEF bid to make a significant investment in the facilities at JHGS. New teaching and learning spaces will be equipped with the latest technology to develop the skills and knowledge needed by the creative industries. Many of the internationally acclaimed creative industries, contributing £84.1bn to the UK economy, are located on our doorstep here in South Bucks and London. Cutting edge facilities will enable us to grow and enhance our offering in design, technology and STEM which will equip students with the necessary skills to work in industry including the media, manufacturing, financial services and engineering sectors.
Through a range of events such as Activity Days and competitions these facilities can be used by local secondary and primary school children. The facilities will be opened out of school hours for the benefit of the local community. Additionally, the SSEF money can be used to create and support bespoke outreach programmes to raise attainment in Wycombe and to enable more pupil premium children to achieve a place in a Grammar School. Programmes to support the development of literacy and numeracy could sit alongside initiatives to promote health and wellbeing. We would run sessions for parents to encourage and support them and their sons through the process of applying to a Grammar School.

Wycombe is growing; investment is taking place to improve the facilities for Wycombe residents. New housing developments will increase the demand for school places. Historically John Hampden has played an integral role in the town’s success. The school is committed to providing the best educational experience for the largest number of students in Wycombe through its outreach programme with local schools and by increasing the number of places available at John Hampden Grammar School.

Any comments about our plans should be forwarded to the school by Monday July 9th via email:

Headspa@jhgs.bucks.sch.uk

Or write to: PA to the Headteacher
John Hampden Grammar School
Marlow Hill
High Wycombe
HP11 1SZ