



Proposal to expand Devonport High School for Girls

Statutory Consultation Document

**Consultation ends
4.00pm on 11 July 2018**

**Head Teacher: Mrs A Hems
Chair of Governors: Mrs G Westcott**

www.dhsg.co.uk

Purpose of the consultation

Devonport High School for Girls are looking to support Plymouth City Council with the projected shortfall of secondary places in Plymouth.

There has been for many years a demand from parents/carers from within the city and from the neighbouring local authorities of Devon and Cornwall for more selective school places. We are over-subscribed year on year by more than double the places available, and wish to expand to meet these needs.

Devonport High School for Girls is strongly committed to increasing the number of disadvantaged pupils who attend selective education in Plymouth and wish to work collaboratively with all schools citywide to encourage and ensure fair access for all, in order to help raise attainment and aspirations.

We would like to hear the views of our local community on:

- The proposed enlargement of Devonport High School for Girls by 2 Forms of Entry (FE) (60 places) starting in September 2020 by 30 places, with a further 30 places in 2021.

This consultation will run until 4.00pm on Wednesday 11th July 2018.

Demand for school places in Plymouth

The primary school population within Plymouth Local Authority (LA) is currently experiencing a peak in numbers and this is due to move into the secondary schools in September 2018. Six Basic Need Expansion Programmes were introduced in September 2011 and a further 14 projects have come on board in order to accommodate the additional children. The LA is currently in consultation with all Plymouth secondary schools on how it will accommodate these pupils once they begin to transfer to secondary phase; therefore the proposed expansion of 60 additional places at Devonport High School for Girls will help the city with this shortfall of places. When the additional pupils from outside the Plymouth boundary who attend Plymouth secondary schools are factored in, the current Year 1 cohort is forecast to be the largest cohort to require secondary places within the next ten years; these pupils are due to join secondary school in 2023/24. Therefore the proposed expansion will enable the city to continue to offer the required number of places in order to allow for parental preference.

Our School

Devonport High School for Girls is an oversubscribed grammar school for girls aged 11-18 (and boys in the Sixth Form). Our mission is to offer a challenging and enriching educational experience, which enables our pupils to develop their curiosity, confidence and aspirations, so that they leave us equipped to enjoy life in a global society. The pupils here are filled with enthusiasm and passion for learning; they display a caring attitude towards each other and a determination to achieve.

We are able to inspire young minds by providing an exciting, challenging and supportive educational environment, which offers innovative teaching methods and encourages creativity. We provide a wide range of exciting extra-curricular and enriching learning opportunities, which means that we can develop the skills, talents and potential of the whole person.

Pupils who attend our school continue to achieve academically at the highest levels in their GCSEs and A levels.

Our GCSE cohort last year achieved overall two thirds of a grade higher in their Progress 8 score when compared to similar pupils nationally; our disadvantaged pupils achieved nearly a whole GCSE grade above similar pupils nationally.

Our A Level cohort last year also achieved an overall positive progress score with 67% of pupils achieving A*- B grades. Their next steps into further education and employment included courses at a variety of universities across the country including Russell Group and Oxbridge; some took a gap year, and others undertook apprenticeships.

In 2017, 82% of our whole GCSE cohort and 90 % of our disadvantaged pupils achieved the EBacc.

If you would like to read our most recent Ofsted inspection report which took place in January 2018, please click on the link below:

<https://www.dhsg.co.uk/site/data/files/ofsted/7FCD3FF99095180F08E54ED783E74899.pdf>

This report confirms the very positive educational experience that we provide for our pupils, see excerpts below:

- “Devonport High School for Girls has developed a vibrant culture of learning”.
- “There is a constant drive for excellence”
- “Although small in number, disadvantaged pupils achieved at significantly higher levels than other pupils nationally and outperformed their peers in the school”.
- “Pupils make exceptionally strong progress across all subject areas at key stage 4”.
- “In the GCSE examinations in 2017, pupils’ overall progress was in the top 10% of all schools”.
- “The programme of individual support is impressively and enthusiastically led. Early identification of pupils who need academic or pastoral support is at the heart of this work and the school has invested heavily in bringing in external support services”.

Published Admission Number

The Published Admission Number (PAN) is the number of Year 7 places which are available to children starting their secondary school education. The PAN of the school is currently set at 120 with up to 12 places allocated to pupil premium students as a priority when the number of applications for admission exceeds the number of places available at the school.

The school currently places the 120 pupils into 4 tutor groups within our house system. With the expansion this would increase to 150 pupils in 5 tutor groups in 2020 and 180 pupils in 6 tutor groups in 2021.

Over time, this will increase the number of pupils in years 7 to 11 by three hundred. With this increase in numbers, when we are a 6 form entry we would make the commitment to prioritise the offer of places to pupils eligible for pupil premium funding in our admissions over-subscription criteria from the current 12 to 45 each year.

A high percentage of our pupils choose to stay on at school to undertake further education and therefore we anticipate the number of post-16 pupils will also increase.

The current level of accommodation available at the school will not support this level of increase in pupil numbers and therefore additional capacity is required. We aim to finance the accommodation through part contribution and an application to the national Selective Schools Expansion Fund (SSEF).

The proposed building project at the school and increased PAN from 120 to 180 will enable the school to accommodate 30 additional Year 7 pupils from September 2020 and a further 30 Year 7 pupils from September 2021. The table below demonstrates the likely growth of the school if additional children are admitted to the PAN.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
2019	120	120	120	120	120
2020	150	120	120	120	120
2021	180	150	120	120	120
2022	180	180	150	120	120
2023	180	180	180	150	120
2024	180	180	180	180	150
2025	180	180	180	180	180

Benefits to Our School Community

We would be looking to build two new modern classroom blocks to replace the old pre-fabricated huts in two separate locations on the current school site. One building to the side of the field at the front of the school (current location of drama hut) would be a literacy and drama centre to accommodate the increase in PAN in 2020, and the second will be a two storey, 8 classroom building at the rear of the school next to the MFL block to accommodate the increase in PAN in 2021. These new builds would be superior teaching spaces for all of our pupils to use which would be far more energy efficient, and we would be removing outdated, uneconomical huts. All building work will be within the existing footprint of the school.

The additional funding and facilities would provide us with the space to be able to further develop new pupil and community partnerships and enhanced provision for our current and future cohorts.

Pupils currently on roll will benefit from this expansion with improved accommodation and specialist facilities appropriate for the modern curriculum. Currently some lessons take place in classrooms which are smaller than modern dimensions; the capacity to expand our accommodation will provide a better learning experience for pupils and a more energy-efficient, positive working environment for pupils and staff.

Looking to the future, additional pupils will also allow us to maintain a breadth of curriculum at Key Stage 4 and Post-16 through an optimum number of pupils making option choices. Our curriculum offer is strong but the capacity to protect diversity at Key Stage 4 and Post-16 will ensure that all aspects of the curriculum can thrive.

The additional funding will enable further investment in the resources of our school benefiting our pupils across all areas of the school community. Money we constantly spend in repairing the older huts can be invested in new modern facilities

We believe that the partnership plan outlined later in this document will provide excellent opportunities for our pupils to grow both academically and personally through collaboration with other schools and our community.

Fairer Access

At Devonport High School for Girls we have been working hard over the last few years to ensure that there is fairer access to our school for all young people and families in our community. The steps we have taken so far include:-

- Designing the 11+ test to be more accessible. Pupils are tested on basic Maths and English which is taught in their primary schools. For example the school removed the Non-Verbal Reasoning and Verbal Reasoning elements of the test papers.
- We have consortium testing arrangements within Plymouth.
- We offer pupil premium children a free 11+ practice experience.
- We provide a link to the GL free practice papers on our school website.
- We prioritise places for pupil premium children in the over subscription criteria for admission to Year 7 and In-year. This is currently set at 12 pupils which is 10 per cent of our PAN.
- Mitigating potential barriers to children from lower income backgrounds. For example by offering pupil premium children financial support for music and singing lessons, school trips and residential experiences, extra-curricular activities and equipment.
- Working in partnership with local primary schools to support and collaborate on learning projects to help raise aspirations and enhance their learning experiences e.g. Dance, PE and Language Leaders Programmes.

Our Partnership Plan

We are committed to working in partnership with all schools locally within the city and further afield. Over the last few years we have been working hard to collaborate and support all schools, colleges and higher education. The steps we have taken so far include:-

- Working with primary schools to help raise aspirations and enhance their learning experiences e.g. Dance and PE Leaders Programmes.
- Delivering shared events and extra-curricular activities in Sport and Drama.
- Working with secondary schools to raise attainment through the Plymouth Learning Trust (PLT) and The Link Partnership (TLP).
- Cross school gifted and talented/most able activities.

- At Post-16 we work to a cross city timetable and through the TLP collaborate as a group of 5 secondary schools on curriculum provision and delivery.
- Offer specific school to school support to a wide range of schools in a variety of areas to ensure that all children in Plymouth succeed.
- Coaching and mentoring staff in other schools to support their pupils.
- Supporting most able pupils to raise aspirations with regards to Oxbridge applications.
- Providing professional development and training days on particular areas of expertise e.g. English, Chinese, Enterprise, Network Management
- Contribution to Hub meetings across the city for Maths, English and Science
- Collaboration work through the South West Academic Trust (SWAT) which is a group of grammar schools from across the South West, involving the provision of workshops and sharing best practice.
- We have International School Status and we are part of the Peninsula Group Confucius Classroom (PGCC) which introduced Mandarin Chinese into local primary schools. We also work with other secondary schools on international projects involving Music, Science, Enterprise and English.
- We are part of the city-wide 2020 Mayflower celebrations, with contributions from our Music, Geography and Art departments.

We would like to improve this further by:

- Building and improving our current commitment (as mentioned above) by enhancing this offer and sustaining successful partnerships
- Prioritise the offer of places to pupils eligible for pupil premium funding in our admissions over-subscription criteria from the current 12 to 45 each year.
- Supporting primary schools to raise aspirations and the potential for high attainment including with more disadvantaged pupils. We are keen to expand our outreach activities including older pupils from the school visiting primary schools to act as mentors and lead learning activities for example in literacy, numeracy and languages.
- Supporting children and families from more disadvantaged areas of the city to raise aspirations and provide opportunities for social mobility including forming partnerships with local business and industry.
- Distributing posters to the Primary Schools advertising open evenings at Devonport High School for Girls.
- Inviting pupils to Devonport High School for Girls for events in Science and Food Technology.
- Offering free familiarisation sessions for Pupil Premium children targeted at Years 3 and 4.
- Delivering study programmes and sporting activities at Devonport High School for Girls targeted at disadvantaged pupils and their parents/carers.
- Provide support with the initial purchase of school uniform for pupil premium children.
- Further extend our gifted and talented/most able programme to include activities for primary schools.
- Work with other schools across the city to support raising aspirations and attainment through the work of the Plymouth Challenge.
- Offer support to schools in subject areas such as languages in order to help raise the number of pupils in the city being entered for the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

– 82% of our whole GCSE cohort and 90 % of our disadvantaged pupils achieved the EBacc in 2017.

- Through subject hubs and Plymouth Leader in Education (PLE) activities provide staff support on aspects of curriculum, teaching and leadership as required across the city.
- Raise aspirations for female pupils in future destinations and employment opportunities through the support of our Alumni, Vote 100, STEM activities and collaborative working partnerships with universities and further education colleges.

City's Priorities

We are committed to supporting the city's priorities as part of the Plymouth Plan:

Plymouth Plan for Education

- Increase the proportion of pupils gaining a good GCSE in English and Maths to be in line with or exceed national average.
- Reduce the gaps in attainment between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils by 50 per cent at the end of Key Stage 4.

Skills and Employability

- Strengthen partnerships between the city's education institutions, communities and employers to match skill levels with demand. Particularly developing in the areas of STEM and accessing core skills including English, maths and ICT.
- Work in partnership with the Employment and Skills Board to improve economic strength and growth.

Responding to our consultation

If you would like to make a response to our consultation, please send in your views by 4.00pm on Wednesday 11 July 2018 to either:

- consultation@dhsg.co.uk
- School Places Consultation
Devonport High School for Girls
Lyndhurst Road
Plymouth
PL2 3DL

Alternatively you are invited to attend the public consultation session at Devonport High School for Girls on Tuesday 3rd July 2018 at 5:00pm in the Main Hall