

**1 November 2021**

*Dear Families, Staff and other Members of the School Community,*

**Consultation on a Proposed Expansion of Brantridge School**

I am writing to let you know about a proposal to expand Brantridge School to accommodate a co-ed secondary provision (Year 7 to Year 11) of 80 pupils on the current school site.

Brantridge School is a special school that currently provides for boys aged 5 to 11 (Year 1 to Year 6) with social emotional mental health difficulties (SEMH) including autistic spectrum disorder. The School is part of Orchard Hill College Academy Trust (the Trust), a specialist multi academy trust.

The Trust and School work closely with West Sussex County Council to ensure that our offer meets local requirements and complements other local provision. The Council have identified the need for a secondary phase SEMH special education provision due to the general school-aged population in the borough, and because the number of pupils requiring this specialist education is rising. We are pleased to be able to work with the Council on this proposed development.

If the proposal is agreed, West Sussex County Council would undertake and fund the new secondary building to accommodate the expansion. It is proposed that the secondary places would build up over a five-year period to reach 80 places in 2026. From September 2022, there would be a secondary provision offer for the School's current Year 6 pupils within the existing school building. It is proposed that the new secondary building would be completed by September 2023.

As Brantridge School is an academy, the expansion proposal would need to be approved by the Department for Education (DfE) and we are therefore seeking the views of interested parties through this consultation in order to inform the DfE's decision-making process to amend the School's Funding Agreement. The proposed secondary expansion would provide a further 80 places above the school's current Funding Agreement of 54 places bringing the total school capacity to 134 places by September 2026.

The consultation period on this proposal is from 1 November 2021 to 29 November 2021 and we invite you to take part in the following ways:

**Public meetings** where you can meet the Trust and School leaders and ask questions, will be held at Brantridge School on Tuesday 16 November at the following times: 10am-12pm and 3.30pm – 5.30pm

**A virtual public meeting** at 6pm on Tuesday 16 November. Please confirm in writing to [consultation@brantridgeschool.org](mailto:consultation@brantridgeschool.org) if you wish to attend.

**Comments on the Proposal** to be submitted in one of the following ways:

- by paper: see attached response form and handed into the school office
- by an online survey at: <https://brantridgeschool.org/secondary-proposal/>
- by email to: [consultation@brantridgeschool.org](mailto:consultation@brantridgeschool.org)
- by post to: Consultation, Brantridge School, Staplefield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH17 6EQ

Our families and wider school community are at the heart of what we do and we want to be sure that this proposal is right, not only for Brantridge School but for the local community.

I look forward to hearing your views on this proposal.

Yours faithfully,



Dafydd Roberts  
**Principal, Brantridge School**

**Brantridge School Expansion Consultation**

**1 November 2021 to 29 November 2021**

*Please rate the six questions below using this scale:*

- 1 Strongly agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Neither agree nor disagree
- 4 Disagree
- 5 Strongly disagree

1. More special school places are needed for children and young people within West Sussex
2. More local provision reduces the need for longer journeys and helps children and young people to play a more active role in their home community
3. Brantridge School has the capacity to offer more places to pupils with special educational needs without it having a negative impact on their existing pupils
4. I am in agreement with the proposal to expand the school to accommodate a co-ed secondary provision
5. I am in agreement with the proposal to amend the overall number of places to 134 within Brantridge School's Funding Agreement

*Please tick one of the following: I am a:*

- Parent of a pupil at Brantridge School
- Parent of a child with special educational needs attending another school
- Staff member at Brantridge School
- Professional working in schools
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Please turn over*



Do you have any other comments about this proposal?

If so, please use the space below to note any further comments you might have. Alternatively, you can complete the consultation on-line at <https://brantridgeschool.org/secondary-proposal/>

*Please return your completed form to the school office:*

**Brantridge School, Staplefield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH17 6EQ**