



Our Ref MWR/JAB

7th July 2006

Hospital

Old Swinford

Dear Consultee

DfES Expanding Popular and Successful Schools Scheme - Consultation

As you may be aware, the Department for Education and Skills has approved an application by the Governors of Old Swinford Hospital to fund the expansion of the School under the above scheme. The Governors are now preparing to draft Statutory Proposals for submission to the local School Organisation Committee during October 2006.

Consultees, including parents, employees, former pupils, other schools, colleges, faith groups, statutory and voluntary bodies are invited to bring to the Governors' attention any matters they feel are important in relation to the proposals in order that they may be taken into account in the formulation of the Statutory Proposals.

Old Swinford Hospital is state maintained boarding school for boys which has received special dispensation to admit a limited number of girls as day students in the Sixth Form. At present there are some 600 students at the School, over 60% of whom are boarders who come from a wide variety of backgrounds in the UK and some from overseas. Only a minority of students has a home within the Dudley MBC area.

As a Voluntary Aided School, Old Swinford Hospital is supported by Thomas Foley's Charity which is governed by the Feoffees of Old Swinford Hospital. The Feoffees appoint a majority of the Governing Body whilst other Governors represent parents, staff and the Local Authority. The School is recognised as having an Anglican religious character but it is not a Church school.

The proposals envisage the expansion of the School to 750 students by 2012 with 100 of the additional places being for boarders. The number of places in the Sixth Form would rise from 260 to 300 in total.

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In formulating the Statutory Proposals, the Governing Body will determine, amongst other matters:

- The Admission Years in which the additional places should be made available
- Whether or not additional places should be made available to girls
- The Admission Policy that will govern the admission of students to the School, including the oversubscription criteria that will apply.

Your opinions of these matters and any others which are relevant to the Statutory Proposals are invited. Any response should reach Mrs. Lynn Roden, Clerk to the Governors at the address below no later than Monday 18th September 2006.

Yours sincerely

Melvyn Roffe
Headmaster