

9 Woodchester, Hagley, Worcestershire. DY9 0NF

Tel: 01562 887899

Email: [gail@thewilliamsons.org.uk](mailto:gail@thewilliamsons.org.uk)

RECEIVED  
21 SEP 2006

Old Swinford Hospital  
Heath Lane  
Stourbridge  
DY8 1QX

Attn: Mrs Lynn Roden – Clerk to the Governors.

14 September 2006

Dear Governors,  
Re: Expanding Schools Scheme.

Thank you for your letter of 7<sup>th</sup> July and the opportunity to voice our opinions on the expanding schools scheme. We trust that you are first considering whether to expand or not before determining the specifics as bullet pointed in your letter.

We have reservations about expansion at all and believe that the geographical limitations of the school grounds should be accepted. There are limited sports pitches on the school plot and the children use these at all opportunities. This activity, both formal and informal, is evident whenever we visit the school and is beneficial to all. If any expansion is to take place then we believe this should not be on sports pitches or other outdoor recreational areas. Accordingly, any expansion should be small and involve day pupils only. We suggest that expansion should be limited to the 40 6<sup>th</sup> form places.

We further feel very strongly that the traditional all male policy in the lower school should be maintained. The positive character of the school reflects this single sex environment in which, we understand, boys often achieve higher standards.

In summary:

- Any expansion should be limited to a maximum of 40 day students
- Any expansion should be limited to the 6<sup>th</sup> form.

As the 6<sup>th</sup> form already accepts girls we would suggest the expansion is mixed sex. In order to further standards, we believe places should be awarded on achievement – predominantly academic but also music and sport.

We trust that our views will be acknowledged and will assist you in determining the future for the school. To date our son has been transformed from a somewhat school disinterested child to one who positively enjoys school almost all of the time. We believe this is a function of the staff and the environment. This environment should be maintained for the benefit of future children. If the school expands by some 150 pupils, then too much will be compromised and the school and its pupils will suffer.

Yours faithfully,

Gail and Roger Williamson



From SIR PATRICK CORMACK, F.S.A., M.P. 2F.

Please reply to:

Constituency Office,  
The Firs,  
Station Road,  
Codsall,  
South Staffordshire WV8 1BX  
Tel: Codsall (01902) 844949

M W Roffe Esq BA FRSA  
Headmaster  
Old Swinford Hospital  
Heath Lane  
Stourbridge  
DY8 1QX

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06 OCT 2006

5 October, 2006

Dear Headmaster,

**DfES EXPANDING POPULAR AND SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS SCHEME -  
SECOND CONSULTATION**

I know Sir Patrick will be grateful to you for sending him a copy of your consultation paper.

I know too that he would be more than happy to see you again at any stage if you feel it would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J A Sharman  
Constituency Secretary

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10 OCT 2006



Clifton House  
Mearse Lane  
Barnt Green  
B45 8HL

7th Oct 2006

Mrs Lynn Roden  
Clerk to the Governors  
Old Swinford Hospital

Dear Mrs Roden,

In response to the letter 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 2006 regarding the expansion of OSH – second consultation. Thank you for sending us the proposals for comment. In general terms a lot of thought has obviously gone into the plans which would expand the school in a positive way.

Our eldest son Callum has just started the school as an out boarder. The specific points we would like to raise relate to the potential admission of Callum's younger brother Sean. When Callum was fortunate enough to gain entry our strong hope was that his brother would follow him. We sent Callum with the knowledge that his brother is of similar if not greater ability and therefore stood a good chance of entry. The proposed change to year 7 out boarder entry in 2008 would impact Sean. We would like to strongly support the inclusion of the sibling link as proposed. Without its inclusion it would seem probable that Sean's chances of entry would be significantly decreased, given we live 10 miles away.

With regard to the new out boarding places in year 9, please consider a sibling link in addition to the criteria of boys without a secondary school place at the time of application. It would seem reasonable to give a sibling a place ahead of a boy selected in a random ballot. We would argue this proposal is also supported by the fact that the sibling link for boarding places is only valid if the brother is a boarder.

We very much appreciate the opportunity to input.

With kind regards

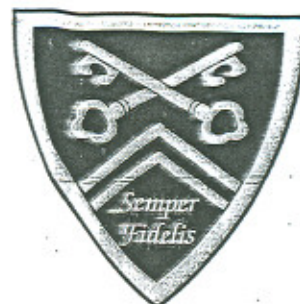
Anne and Steve Watson

# Hagley Catholic High School

Specialist School in the Visual & Performing Arts

Patron Saint: St Nicholas Owen

Brake Lane, Hagley, Worcestershire, DY8 2XL  
Telephone: 01562 883193 - Fax: 01562 881820  
Website: www.hagleyrc.worcs.sch.uk  
Headteacher: Mr T Hammond



RECEIVED  
30 OCT 2006

TH/BT

20 October 2006

Mrs Lynn Roden  
Clerk to the Governors  
Old Swinford Hospital School  
Heath Lane  
STOURBRIDGE  
DY8 1QX

Dear Mrs Roden

**RE: DFES EXPANDING POPULAR AND SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS SCHEME –  
SECOND CONSULTATION**

I read the information you forwarded to me and would be very interested to see how you have concluded that this area has the capacity to increase the size of your sixth form by 68 places by 2011.

My understanding of funding from the Learning and Skills Council is that all expansions needed to be defined in terms of lack of provision in the local area. From my fifteen years of experience at this school, which could also be described as popular and successful, I find it difficult to believe that this area has a shortage of available sixth form places and, given the demographic projection for this area, I cannot see this being the case in the medium or long term.

It is therefore my conclusion that if you are to increase the capacity of your sixth form, this will be a duplication of places and not in the best interests of any other provider in the area or an effective use of the Learning and Skills Council funding.

Yours sincerely

T J Hammond  
Headteacher



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31 OCT 2006



Leading learning and skills

Mr Melvyn Roffe  
Headmaster  
Old Swinford Hospital  
Heath Lane  
Stourbridge  
West Midlands DY8 1QX

Date 24 October 2006  
Our reference JCS/bjs

Dear Melvyn

**DfES Expanding Popular and Successful Schools Scheme - Second Consultation**

Thank you for your letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> October. In principle, the LSC has no objections to the increase in the size of the Sixth Form to 340 (up by 68) by 2011, subject to the affordability of funding growth in school sixth form funding.

We would be anxious to ensure however that, in designing this provision, you consult with other post-16 providers in the local consortia arrangements that currently exist and of which you are a member.

Yours sincerely

Julie Cosgrove  
Partnership Director  
0845 019 4186  
julie.cosgrove@lsc.gov.uk

c.c. Andy Brown, John Cunningham  
John Freeman (DMBC), Rory Watson (DMBC)

Our ref: RW/LB

Please ask for:

Ray Watson

Direct Line: 814395

03 October 2006

Mr M Roffe-Headteacher  
Old Swinford Hospital School  
Heath Lane  
Stourbridge  
DY8 1QX

Dear Melvyn

Draft Admissions Policy 2009

I refer to your recent consultation regarding your admission arrangements for 2009 and would like to make the following observations:-

1. Sports and Music places – The draft Code of Practice (2008) paragraph 1.15 and 2.56 - It is unlawful for any school to adopt selection by ability as a means of allocating places. Only Grammar School or schools with partially selective arrangements which were already in place during 1997-98 are permitted to continue to use selection by ability. The 4 places awarded to students with ability in Music and Sports were not used during 1997-98.

See also 2.57 - Selection by aptitude in Sport and PE is allowed for a school with a specialism in one or more prescribed subjects to give priority to up to 10% of pupils who can demonstrate an aptitude in the relevant subject.

2. Code of Practice paragraph 3.9 - admission arrangements should explain how late applications will be dealt with and waiting lists should detail how long they will be maintained for.
3. Sibling and distance criteria - Needs to be explicit and not refer to Dudley's arrangements.

Yours sincerely

R Watson

Ray Watson  
Assistant Director (Resources)

RECEIVED  
13 OCT 2006



RESP  
2f6  
RESPONSE

Your Ref: RW/LB  
Our Ref: MWR/AMO  
30 October 2006-10-30

OLD SWINFORD  
HOSPITAL

Mr Ray Watson  
Assistant Director (Resources)  
Directorate of Children's Services  
Westox House  
1 Trinity Road  
Dudley  
West Midlands DY1 1JQ

Dear Ray

Draft Admissions Policy Document 2009

Thank you for letter 3 October 2006. Perhaps I could respond in turn to the three points you make.

1) Sports & Music Place

These are places for children with particular aptitude in sport and music and such are not an extension of our partial selection by ability permitted by pre existing arrangements. The new Code of Practice continues to allow schools to select by aptitude up to 10% of pupils with aptitude in one or more prescribed subjects and does not limit that power designated specialist schools in those subjects. This was confirmed in my earlier discussions with DFES Admissions unit. As you may know, although we are a Business and Enterprise College, we offer an extensive and high quality programme of education in music and sport which we believe justifies any decision which the governors might make to select a small number of students on the basis of aptitude in those subject areas.

2) I believe that our Draft Admissions Policy does explain how late applications will be dealt with, but we will ensure that information is provided about how long waiting lists would be maintained.

3) My previous discussions with DFES Admissions Unit suggested that using the LA sibling and distance criteria was good practice! However, there will be no particular difficulty in copying the wording from the Dudley Document – other than making our admissions policy even longer than it already is.

Thank you once again for your comments. I will be in touch again when our second consultation period has expired.

Yours sincerely

M W Roffe  
Headmaster

Cc Lynn Roden

OLD SWINFORD HOSPITAL  
HEATH LANE STOURBRIDGE DY8 1QX

TELEPHONE : 01384 817351  
FACSIMILE : 01384 441686

e-mail : headmaster@oshsch.com  
website : www.oshsch.com