

Consultation on student expansion and additional teaching and learning space at Chestnut Grove Academy

Summary: what is being proposed?

The London Borough of Wandsworth (“the Council”) has proposed that Chestnut Grove Academy increases its main school roll (ages 11-16) from 900 to 1,050 (150 students). This represents an increase of 30 students per year group from 180 to 210 students.

The rationale for this is that the Council are forecasting a future “bulge” in student numbers within the borough of Wandsworth, flowing through from primary schools to secondary schools.

The increase in student numbers will require additional classrooms and the Council has agreed to fund the building of an additional 5 classrooms and associated services on the existing Chestnut Grove site.

The Trustees of Wandle Learning Trust (of which Chestnut Grove is a part) have agreed to the proposal in principle, subject to the necessary consultations. This decision has been supported by the members of the Local Academy Committee at Chestnut Grove Academy.

The proposal is being made in accordance with [Department for Education guidance](#).

How would the proposal be implemented?

The proposed increase in student numbers would be incremental over a 5 year period.

Year	7	8	9	10	11
2019-20	180	180	180	165	165
2020-21	210	180	180	180	165
2021-22	210	210	180	180	180
2022-23	210	210	210	180	180
2023-24	210	210	210	210	180
2024-25	210	210	210	210	210

This model would enable the school to manage the increase in student numbers gradually, so that the current high standards across the school can be maintained.

The additional students would be admitted under Chestnut Grove Academy’s existing admission arrangements.

What is the school's current capacity and how would it change?

The current published admission number is 875 (excluding the 6th form). The 6th form is currently 262.

The numbers in all year groups at the school were at, or slightly below, the published admission number:

Autumn Census 2018

<i>Year group</i>	<i>Number</i>
Year 7	190
Year 8	177
Year 9	162
Year 10	159
Year 11	163
Total	851

Spring Census 2019

<i>Year group</i>	<i>Number</i>
Year 7	189
Year 8	179
Year 9	164
Year 10	161
Year 11	163
Total	856

Why is the change being made?

The Council have done extensive forecasting of future student place demands across the borough and have requested that Chestnut Grove Academy and some other schools, increase their capacity to meet this increased demand.

How would the proposal be funded?

The Council will fund the additional classroom spaces required to meet this increase along with the design costs etc. by using some of its Department for Education Special Capital Provision Fund allocation.

The revenue costs associated from the increase in numbers e.g. additional teachers, support costs etc., would be met from the additional per student funding that is agreed with the school each year.

What previous consultation has taken place on the proposal?

The building works are subject to their own planning requirements and a public consultation has already taken place at the school, as part of that process.

How can representations on the proposals be made?

Please e-mail amiles@chestnutgrove.wandsworth.sch.uk, or write to:

Antonia Miles
PA to the Headteacher
Chestnut Grove Academy
Balham
London SW12 8JZ

How long is the representation period and when does it start and end?

In accordance with [Department for Education guidance](#), the representation period will last for at least six weeks, commencing on Tuesday 1st October 2019 and ending on Friday 31st January 2020.

When and how will decisions be made in respect of the proposal?

The Council and the Trustees of Wandle Learning Trust (the legal entity), acting in their roles as 'local decision maker', will consider the proposals and the representations made upon them, and will decide whether or not to finally approve the proposals. If the proposals were approved, they would then be legally binding, subject to planning permission for the requisite building works.