



**INVITATION TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO RUN A NEW SIX FORM ENTRY  
SECONDARY SCHOOL IN MARGATE IN THE THANET DISTRICT OF KENT  
Opening from September 2019 or September 2020**

**Introduction:** Kent County Council is inviting applications to sponsor a new (Years 7-11) 6FE secondary school to serve the district of Thanet.

Kent County Council (KCC) as the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in the County is responsible for ensuring there are sufficient places of high quality for all learners, while at the same time fulfilling our other responsibilities to raise education standards and be the champion of children and their families in securing good quality education. Our Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent is key to achieving our aims and identifies the need for new school provision across Kent. This document and further information is available from the following link: [www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision](http://www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision)

Secondary pupil numbers in the Thanet district are forecast to grow over the coming years as the increase in the primary aged population transfers to the secondary phase. The Commissioning Plan identifies a need for an additional 6FE Secondary school. The secondary pupil pressure across Thanet is expected to grow to 8FE in the medium term and 10FE in the longer term as new housing developments proceed. Temporary expansion of some existing Secondary schools may also be required to deal with the interim position.

**Table 1.**

Thanet District Secondary Schools	Category	Year 7 PAN	PAN Cap Yrs 7-11
Charles Dickens School (The)	Academy	232	1160
Chatham House & Clarendon House Grammar School	Academy	180	900
Dane Court Grammar School	Academy	165	825
Hartsdown Academy	Academy	180	900
King Ethelbert School	Academy	150	750
Royal Harbour School	Foundation	200	1,000
St George's Church of England Foundation School	Foundation	217	1,085
Ursuline College	Academy	120	600
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1,444</b>	<b>7,220</b>

**Table 2.**

Thanet district Secondary forecasts for Year 7 and Years 7-11	2018-19 (F)	2019-20 (F)	2020-21 (F)	2021-22 (F)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)
Year 7	-90	-176	-191	-175	-219	-231
Years 7-11	144	-160	-398	-627	-875	-1,016

Thanet enjoys an attractive combination of coast and countryside. One of its main attractions is its location in relation to the rest of Kent, London and Europe and beyond. Thanet is a district of diversity with many different cultures and languages. Inward migration of families from London, the Home Counties and Eastern Europe has grown substantially over recent years.

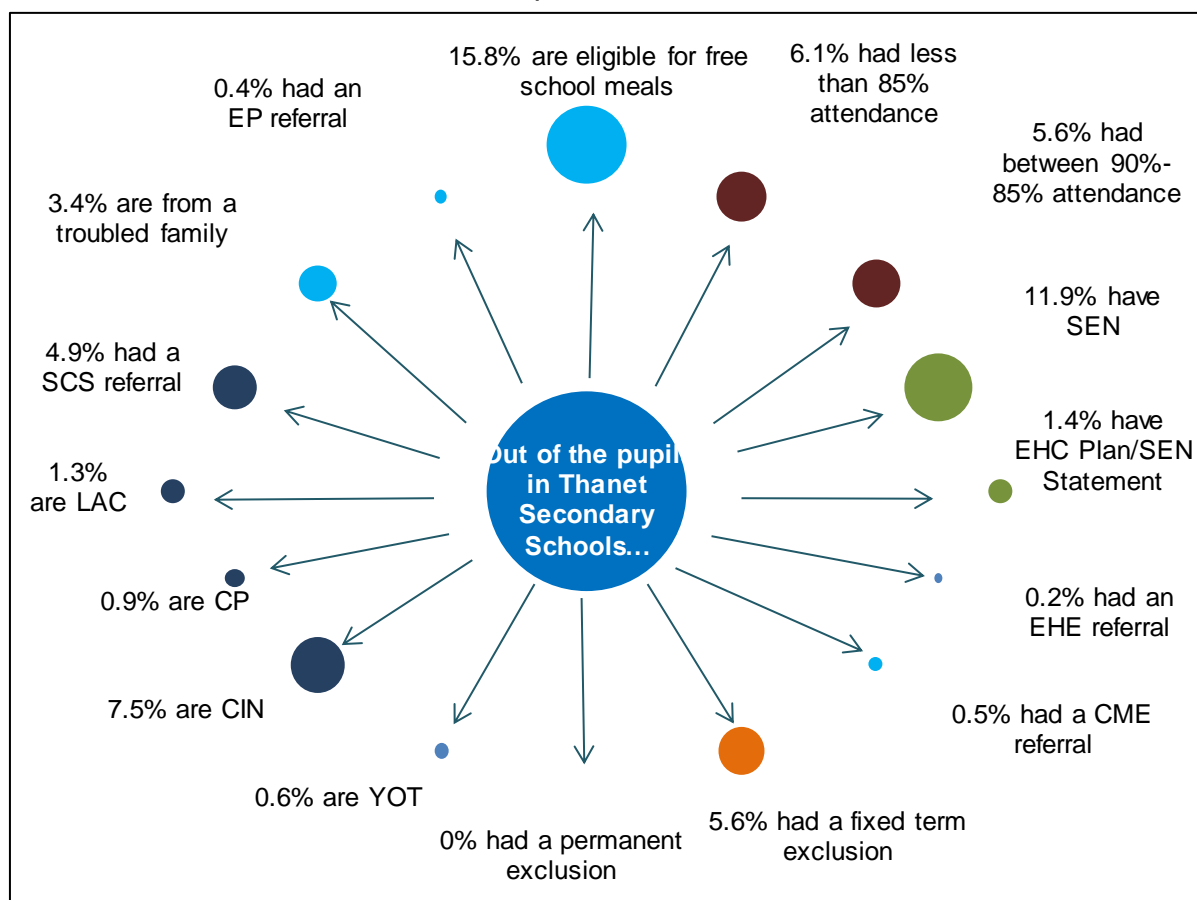
Thanet District Council's proposed revisions to the draft Local Plan (preferred options) January 2017 includes a total of 17,140 new homes over the Plan period to 2031 with approximately 857 dwellings per annum. During the period 2011 to 2016 there were 1,555 new homes built.

Thanet is one of England's 20% most deprived districts and includes areas of high social deprivation. A particular challenge for the schools in Thanet is the high number of Looked After Children placed there by other local authorities. KCC is in the process of purchasing the site of the former Royal School for the Deaf in the Dane Valley area of Margate. This is an area with particularly high levels of deprivation and families with English as a second language. The Equality Impact Assessment provides school data relating to particular groups. This is available with the other documents at: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/education-provision/provision-of-new-schools#tab-1>.

For more detail on the community, please visit –

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/Research-and-figures-about-Kent/area-profiles>

September 2016 data



**Education Vision:** Our vision is for Kent to be the most forward looking area in England for education and learning so that we are the best place for children and young people to grow up, learn, develop and achieve.

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/vision-and-priorities-for-improvement>

Kent should be a place where families thrive and all children learn and develop well from the earliest years so that they are ready to succeed at school, have excellent foundations for learning and are equipped well for achievement in life, no matter what their background. In Kent we should have the same expectations for every child and young person to make good progress in their learning, to achieve well and to have the best opportunities for an independent economic and social life as they become young adults.

Every child and young person should go to a good or outstanding school, have access to the best teaching, and benefit from schools and other providers working in partnership with each other to share the best practice as they continue to improve.

**Table 3: Key Dates**

Event	Dates
Invitation for expressions of interest published	20 November 2017
Community consultation commences	20 November 2017
Expressions of Interest submitted	4pm 08 December 2017
Deadline for receipt of applications	4pm 15 January 2018
Community consultation ends	4pm 15 January 2018
KCC informs DfE of all proposals received	19 January 2018
Promoter Assessment Panel meets	01 February 2018
Education Commission considers proposals	09 February 2018
KCC submits all proposals to the Secretary of State	16 February 2018
Secretary of State appoints the successful sponsor	April 2018
Target date for opening of new school	September 2019 or by 2020 at the latest.

### **School Specification:**

**Location:** Subject to successful completion of the purchase, the school will be situated on the former Royal School for the Deaf site. The 14.7 acre site on Victoria Road and Park Crescent Road is close to Margate town centre (outlined in red below).



**Expected Opening Date:** 1 September 2020, with the possibility of opening with up to 120 Year 7 students by September 2019 in alternative accommodation subject to discussion.

**Age Range:** The school will be for boys and girls aged between 11 and 16 years – without 6<sup>th</sup> form.

**Capacity and Published Admission Number:** The school will provide 900 places, with a Published Admission Number of 180. It is anticipated that the school will open with a Year 7 Admission Number of 120 (if opening in September 2019) or 150 (if opening in September 2020). (See Tables 4 and 5.)

**Provision for Special Educational Needs:** The academy will be expected to be fully inclusive and to educate children with SEN for whom mainstream education is considered appropriate.

The school will include a 15 place specialist resourced provision (SRP) for pupils whose primary barrier to learning is Social and Emotional needs. Some pupils will have a medical diagnosis of Autism.

The Provision would open when the school is located in its new buildings and would grow incrementally each year (see Table 6). It would be a centre of excellence which would be expected to support other providers to improve their practice. A service level agreement (SLA) would need to be put in place between the sponsor and the LA. An example SLA can be found on the [webpage](#).

#### **Post 16 Pathways:**

Potential promoters would be expected to work closely and build relationships with a range of Post 16 providers, including schools, East Kent College and work-based training providers. A key priority would be to ensure suitable progression pathways for students attending the new school, providing them with opportunities to develop their employability skills.

Below is a link to KCC's refresh of the 14-24 Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy.

[http://www.kelsi.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0015/30453/Refresh-of-the-14-24-Learning,-Employment-and-Skills-Strategy-2015-2018.compressed.pdf](http://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/30453/Refresh-of-the-14-24-Learning,-Employment-and-Skills-Strategy-2015-2018.compressed.pdf)

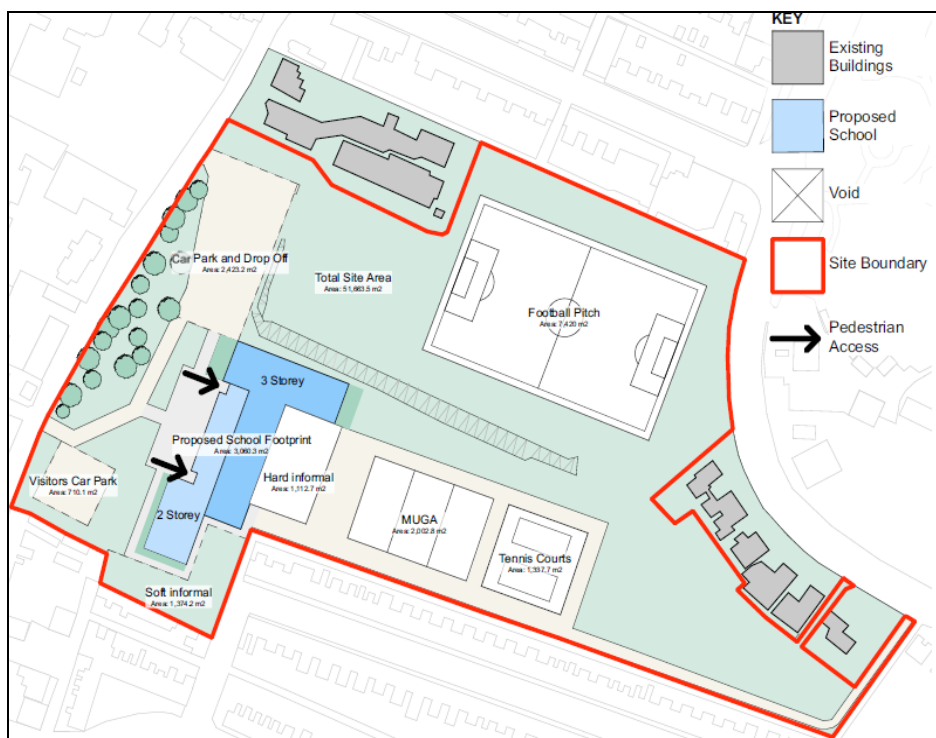
Further information is available through the link to district data packs produced by KCC's Skills and Employability Service. The packs look at new and old data sets and ask questions about local pathways, their compatibility with the local economy and the support young people receive.

<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/skills-and-employability/14-to-19-25-curriculum-pathways/district-data-packs>

#### **Admission Arrangements:**

All promoters are required to follow the DfE School Admissions Code and the School Admission Appeals Code. Promoters will be required to participate in KCC's co-ordinated scheme for the normal admission rounds and KCC's In-year Fair Access policy and procedures.

**The School Building:** The school will be procured by KCC and built to the agreed ESFA specification for a 6FE Secondary school. The school site and buildings will be leased to the Academy Trust for 125 years. Below is a possible layout for the new school.



### Revenue Funding:

1. **Pupil Growth Funding:** In accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and its Schools Funding Forum, the school will receive guaranteed funding during the first three years. For the purposes of providing a guaranteed budget we are assuming the following organisation.

**Tables 4, 5 and 6: Proposed Admissions Numbers at the new school over the first 3 years depending on the date of opening:**

Table 4. Opening in September 2019 (in alternative accommodation)

Academic Year	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Number of Classes each year	Total Pupil Numbers
2019-20	120	0	0	0	0	4	120
2020-21	150	120	90	0	0	8	360
2021-22	150	150	120	90	0	5	510

Table 5. Opening in September 2020 (in the new school buildings in Margate)

Academic Year	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Number of Classes each year	Total Pupil Numbers
2020-21	150	90	90	0	0	11	330
2021-22	150	150	90	90	0	5	480
2022-23	180	150	150	90	90	6	660

Table 6. Opening of the SRP in September 2020 (in the new school buildings in Margate). Proposed Commissioned Numbers across the year groups, reaching a total capacity of 15 in 2022-23:

Academic Year	Total Pupil Numbers
2020-21	5
2021-22	10
2022-23	15

Beyond this time the structure will be determined by pupil numbers and the school's budget. The indicative 3 year budgets, based on both scenarios above, can be found on the [webpage](#). On opening, the new school will be funded directly by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

2. Furniture and Equipment - £6k per learning space will be provided towards the cost of furniture and equipment. This will be given to the Trust in order to undertake their own procurement.
3. Start-up Costs: A one-off £25,000 grant will be provided to successful sponsor by the Department for Education to cover legal expenses. KCC's current policy (agreed with the Kent Schools Funding Forum) will provide a budget of £50,000 for start-up costs which will typically commence from January through to 31 August prior to the new school opening on 1 September 2019 or 2020. The current policy will be reviewed by the Schools Funding Forum in November 2017 in the light of opening a number of new secondary schools across Kent and interested sponsors will be notified if there are any changes. KCC has significant experience of opening maintained schools and academies using this funding mechanism. KCC will not pay further "Project Management Costs" to the sponsor. Therefore, potential sponsors will need to confirm that they would be prepared to proceed on this basis if they are selected.

#### **Application Process and Assessment Criteria:**

Potential proposers are asked to complete the Expression of Interest Form and return it to us by 4pm on 08 December 2017. You will also need to complete the full application form and return it to us by 4pm on 15 January 2018. Both documents are available via this link: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/education-provision/provision-of-new-schools#tab-1>.

The DfE will only consider entering into a funding agreement with an approved sponsor. Potential sponsors who are not on the DfE's approved sponsor list must go through the process before submitting an application. Details of how to apply to be an approved sponsor can be accessed via this link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sponsor-an-academy>. We will evaluate proposals received and provide the DfE with copies of the proposals and our assessment of them. Our assessment criteria mirrors, as far as possible, those used by the DfE. These focus on strategic vision, educational capacity and performance, financial planning and operational capacity and governance.

Additionally, we would expect promoters to demonstrate:

- How they will ensure that pupil achievement and rates of progress are above national expectations;
- How they will ensure vulnerable groups of pupils perform as well as other children;

- That they have a strong culture of working collaboratively with other education providers locally and in other parts of Kent to promote partnership working and community cohesion. They would particularly need to work closely with 6<sup>th</sup> form and further education providers to ensure pathways for progression are easily accessible for the students;
- How they would work in close partnership with KCC with regard to the operation of the SRP;
- How they will deliver high quality provision for all children with SEN and disabilities and Children in Care;
- Evidence from existing sponsors of a proven track record of school improvement or sustained high standards and how the proposed governance model will drive and support high standards.

You will need to submit a focussed and coherent education plan as part of Section C of the application. Also you will need to submit a 3 year budget plan as part of Section F of the application.

KCC will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State as to its preferred provider. The Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) for the South East, on behalf of the Secretary of State, will consider the local authority assessments and recommendations before deciding which sponsor is in the best position to take forward the new school. The RSC will inform the Local Authority and the successful sponsor of its decision and the Local Authority will inform any unsuccessful sponsors.

As soon as selected, we would expect early engagement with the sponsor, in particular to begin dialogue about local consultation and proposed admission arrangements. If you would like further information or wish to discuss your application, please contact Marisa White, Area Education Officer (East Kent), Tel: 03000 418794.

If you are interested in running this new school in Thanet you need to submit an Expression of Interest by 4pm on 08 December 2017.

**The full application form should be sent electronically no later than 4pm on 15 January 2018 to [school.consultations@kent.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@kent.gov.uk) for the attention of Marisa White, Area Education Officer (East Kent).**

#### **Background documents:**

- Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2017-21  
[www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision](http://www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision)
- Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020:  
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunities-improving-outcomes>