

30 March 2010

To: All parents and carers of students attending Kings College

Dear Parent/Carer,

KINGS COLLEGE FOR THE ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY, GUILDFORD
Proposal to acquire Trust School status, with effect from 1 September 2010

The governors at Kings College have been discussing the possibility of the College becoming a Trust school, and this letter is to explain our ideas and proposals and to ask for your views.

Our proposed Trust

Trust schools are a new kind of school, which is part of the local authority system, but supported by a charitable Trust which will appoint some of the governors. The Governing Body will continue to run the College and be responsible for its performance, and Mrs Ward will continue to lead as Principal.

The proposed name of the Trust that will support the College is 'Kings Community Trust', this name reflecting the wish of the Governing Body and the College as a whole to be part of, and help develop, the communities of Park Barn and Westborough.

As you are probably aware, the College already collaborates with various local schools and other organisations so that its students get the widest possible options for their GCSEs, and so that we can offer a range of support for students. The proposal is that the College will be supported by the Trust which will be formed by representatives of local businesses, including The Holiday Inn Guildford, the Park Barn Residents' Association, and the Surrey Wildlife Trust. We will continue our strong links with the Royal Grammar School (Guildford) and the University of Surrey for the mentoring programme, as well as the University of Reading and George Abbot School to allow some of their trainee teachers to do placements at the College. Many of our students already use these and other local support services, e.g. Connexions, and the Governing Body is keen to develop proper partnerships.

What does this mean for students?

The Kings College mission statement is 'Enriching lives through learning', and our partners share this commitment and will help us to make this a reality for all our students. We will continue to teach the National Curriculum, but will benefit from partners' experience and ideas to tailor lessons and options to meet every student's needs, to strengthen practical and vocational opportunities for all our students, and to build on our increasingly strong academic record. We also wish to support students to decide what they want to do with

their lives and plan how to achieve this, and give them realistic advice. Existing projects will continue, and the new relationship will make it easier to plan for the long-term.

What does this mean for parents?

The College will continue to set its own admissions arrangements, and will continue to be bound by the School Admissions Code, as are all other schools. This means that we will continue to have fair admissions and that we will not introduce any selection by ability. We expect to keep very similar arrangements and criteria to what we have now.

A Parent Council has already been established which parents can use as a means to raise concerns and suggestions with the governors. Governors will also consult the Parent Council about major decisions that they are going to take. The Council will allow more parents to get involved, and will be driven by what parents want to raise and feed into the Governing Body.

Consultation process

Please let us know what you think about the proposal. You can talk to the parent governors (Les Ames, Gary Sherrington-Boyd and Brian Slyfield), or send back our consultation questionnaire or write to us at the College. The Governing Body would also like to invite you to attend an open meeting on Monday, 26 April 2010 at 6.00 p.m. in the Hall to discuss the proposals with the Principal, members of the Governing Body and representatives of our College's partners.

The closing date for consultation is 4 May 2010. The governors will review all the comments and will use these to decide whether to go ahead with the proposals to acquire a Trust, and whether it is necessary to amend the proposals to reflect your suggestions and concerns. If the Governing Body decides to publish a formal proposal, there will be a further chance to comment at that stage.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed within a hand-drawn oval. The signature is stylized and appears to be 'L.A.' or similar initials.

Les Ames
Chair of Governors