

Thursday 30th November 2023

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A University of Kent Academies Trust School

Dear Parent/Carer, Schools, Nurseries and other interested parties,

Co-educational Admissions Consultations – December 2023 to January 2024

In November and December 2022, following an initial consultation exercise undertaken by Medway Council earlier in 2022, Chatham Grammar consulted with our staff, our parents/carers, our local authority and all local primary and secondary schools around becoming a co-educational establishment. This would mean that the academy would admit both girls and boys into Year 7. We are now consulting on a wider basis, with the intention of this change taking effect from September 2025.

We are proposing this change alongside Fort Pitt Grammar School and Holcombe Grammar School, both of which are also planning to move to co-ed from September 2025. The proposal is intended to balance the number of girls' and boys' places in Medway, and, over time, to allow more Medway students to attend a grammar school.

This change will also reduce pressure on non-selective secondary schools, ensuring that there are enough places for all Medway pupils whether or not they wish to attend a grammar school. Having more mixed grammar schools will mean that girls and boys places will be more evenly spread across Medway, and that students will not have to travel as far to go to school.

Medway Council had previously approved this proposal, and the outcome was published on 23rd August 2022. If you would like to view either their original proposal or the outcome of their consultation, please follow this link: [Outcomes of consultation on proposals to move to co-educational provision](#).

We are now consulting with all relevant stakeholders for six weeks, from 1st December 2023 until 12th January 2024. Fort Pitt and Chatham Grammar will be consulting at the same time.

There are two separate consultations being run concurrently, linked to this change:

Consultation 1: Chatham Grammar to become a co-educational 11-18 establishment from September 2025. This consultation is a key part of our application to the Department for Education to make what is termed a "significant change" to the academy – that is, allowing boys to be admitted to the academy.

Consultation 2: Chatham Grammar to amend its admissions arrangements, to admit boys into Year 7 from September 2025. A copy of the proposed admissions arrangements can be found by [clicking here](#).

We would like to invite you to share your views on both consultations, preferably by completing our online survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/hj8AJLRVRc>. You may alternatively share your views by emailing us at admissionscg@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk or by writing to me at the address above. If you choose to email or write, you must make clear whether you agree or disagree with each proposal or have no preference. We will also be holding a face-to-face event from 3pm until 4pm on Thursday 7th December.

The deadline for all responses is 12th January 2024. We look forward to hearing your views about these proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Walters
Principal