



HELENA ROMANES SCHOOL

15th November 2023

To whom it may concern

Helena Romanes School is proposing to increase the size of our sixth form as part of a significant change to be implemented when we move to a new school building on a new site, just off Stortford Road in Great Dunmow.

We are consulting on increasing the total size of the Sixth Form to accommodate **350 pupils** in both Year 12 and Year 13 combined. We are asking for this change from **September 2026** when the sixth form phase of the new building will be opened.

Although the PAN for Year 12 is for 270 pupils, the current building design would not accommodate this number. In addition, applications to the Sixth Form have not historically reached this level for at least ten years. However, for the reasons set out below, we feel an increase is both necessary and viable:

- In October 2023, the school was graded '**Good**' by Ofsted, an improvement since the last inspection in 2019. This outcome demonstrates the developing provision in the school. As a result, we believe that more parents will choose Helena Romanes school on entry to the primary, secondary and Sixth Form phase.
- The numbers of **pupils from Year 11 choosing to move into the sixth form** has increased over the last few years. Our PAN is 270 and we are now seeing an increased percentage of pupils from Year 11 choosing to move into the sixth form. We expect this percentage to increase in line with the trend of the last few years.
- The number of **pupils applying to the sixth form from other local 11-16 providers** is increasing, having tripled in the last two years and we are drawing more pupils from a wider range of 11-16 schools. We expect this percentage to continue to grow, in line with the trend of the last few years. Increasing the size of the sixth form will mean that the school can make more places available to pupils from the local area.
- The **total number of pupils** in the sixth form has increased by 60% over the last two years.
- The Essex County Council 10 Year Plan, 2023-2032, recognises the steadily growing **need for additional school places for children starting in reception**. In September 2021, the county council supported Helena Romanes School in opening a primary phase and in becoming a 4-18 all-through school. In addition, Essex County Council have planned for an additional primary school set to open in 2030/2031. Finally, significant **residential building** is taking place in Great Dunmow and is proposed for some surrounding towns. We believe that this will have a direct impact on the need for post 16 places.
- A larger sixth form will allow us to give students a **greater choice of qualifications and subjects** to offer them the best educational experience possible.
- A larger sixth form is more **financially efficient** and so we can offer a **greater programme of pastoral support, alongside offering a richer careers, PSHE and enrichment programme**
- We believe that a **brand new building**, with improved facilities that enhance the educational provision, will be attractive to pupils considering joining the sixth form and will have a positive impact on the number of applications to the sixth form.

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Executive Headteacher: Ms Catherine Davis BA(Hons)

This consultation is for the attention of:

- Parents and carers
- Feeder primary schools
- Local secondary schools, including those with a sixth form
- Local 16-18 colleges
- The Local Authority

How to respond:

This consultation will run until **Friday 15th December 2023**. You are invited to submit comments in writing to the head's PA, Ceri Weston, cweston@hrs.education until this date.

Following the consultation period the Governing Body will consider any comments received and how to proceed.

Yours sincerely



Catherine Davis
Executive Headteacher



Mark Hayes
Chair of Governors

