



Cheshire West  
and Chester

# Consultation on the Enlargement by Expansion of Blacon High School

25 February – 24 March 2019

Cheshire West and Chester Council  
Blacon High School Consultation  
Education Service

4 Civic Way,  
Ellesmere Port,  
CH65 0BE

[schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

**Blacon High School  
Enlargement by Expansion Consultation**

To Pupils, Parents/Carers, Staff, Governors and Stakeholders

25 February 2019

**Cheshire West and Chester Council is proposing to enlarge, by expansion, Blacon High School, Melbourne Road, Chester, Cheshire, CH1 5JH in order to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to provide enough school places in the area.**

**1. Why we are proposing to enlarge by expansion Blacon High School?**

Cheshire West and Chester Council (the Council) is proposing to expand Blacon High School in order to provide more school places for local children. Blacon High School now has a shortfall of places because more parents are now expressing a preference for the school and there are a larger number of primary pupils moving through from the feeder primary schools. The Council has a legal duty to provide enough school places and so we are proposing to provide 150 additional school places by expanding Blacon High School from 120 to 150 places for each year group from Years 7 to 11. We have agreed with the Governing Body of the school to carry out this informal public consultation on this proposal. If the proposal is approved, then additional accommodation (including classrooms) will be provided so that the school can grow in a controlled way.

**2. Are there plans to show how this proposed expansion will be delivered on site?**

We are currently looking at the options as to how best the expansion can be achieved. Any plans need to be in line with the Priority School Building Programme contract that applies to the school site since the school was rebuilt in 2017. We think that, although some minor works may be necessary in the existing building, most of the additional accommodation will be provided in a separate newly constructed building.

School staff and Governor Representatives will be part of a design team to make sure that the school's views feed into the design process. If the proposal to expand the school is agreed then the building works will also go through a separate planning consultation process. This means that once plans have been developed, all members of the public will have the opportunity to comment on the planning application necessary to implement them. If the proposal is approved, then construction work on any new-build will probably start in autumn 2019.

**3. Will the school need to close during the proposed building work?**

No. Works to the existing building will be planned carefully to take place mainly around holiday times to make sure disruption is kept to an absolute minimum. The main build will be contained in a securely fenced area of the school grounds and should have very little impact upon the daily life of the school.

#### 4. How will the proposed expansion happen and how many children will there be at the school?

We believe that the school could use the existing building to take a maximum of 30 additional pupils into Year 7 in September 2019 (150 rather than 120). Then when the new accommodation is completed for the school will admit a maximum of 30 additional pupils into all Year 7 groups from 2020 onwards. If there is enough 'in-year' demand to allow the school to employ additional teachers then the governing body may consider admitting pupils into other year groups (up to a maximum of 150 pupils in each of those year groups). Growth should be gradual until the planned maximum number of 750 pupils is reached.

#### 5. Will there be enough outdoor space?

As part of a feasibility study, the design team will make sure there remains sufficient outdoor space for a 750 place school. The school will plan how to use the space for lunch and recreation times and for Physical Education.

#### 6. The consultation process – indicative timeline

Date	Activity
25 February – 24 March 2019	Informal Public Consultation Period
5 March 2019 3pm-7pm	Drop-in Meeting at the school for parents/carers, staff, governors, other stakeholders and interested parties.
April 2019	The Director of Education decides whether to continue with the proposal. If so, a Public Notice will be published in a local newspaper, displayed at the school and available on the school's and the Council's website. During this time comments and objections can be made about the proposal. The Public Notice will run for four weeks.
July 2019	The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People considers all responses made and decides whether to go ahead.
September 2019	First stage of permanent expansion of the school commences in existing accommodation if proposal agreed.
September 2020	Subsequent stages of permanent expansion commence in new build.

#### 7. How can I give my views?

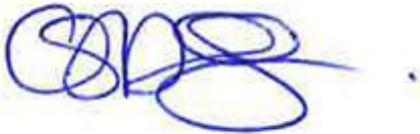
There are a number of ways to give us your views on this proposal:

- At a drop-in for parents/carers, members of staff, governors and other interested parties is being held at the school on Tuesday 5 March 2019 from 3pm-7pm, where there will be the opportunity to ask questions and complete a response form.
- By sending the response form to Cheshire West and Chester Council, School Organisation Team (Nicholas House, Floor 3)4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE. Alternatively, you may hand your response form in at the school. All written responses need to be received by midnight on Sunday 24 March 2019.
- By completing the online form at <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/BlaconHigh>
- By emailing [schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)
- Visit [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/BHSconsultation](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/BHSconsultation) for further information.

## 8. What happens next?

This consultation stage closes on midnight 24 March 2019. A report summarising the responses received during the consultation period will be submitted to the Director of Education who will then decide whether to proceed with the expansion proposal and publish statutory proposals in the form of a public notice. The public notice would be published in a local newspaper, for a period of four weeks following the publication date. Anyone can comment on the proposals. Having taken into account any responses, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People will then take a final decision as to whether to proceed with the proposals which will include a planning application process as outlined above.

Yours sincerely,



Carolyn Davis  
Senior Manager Education Infrastructure

### **Blacon High School– public consultation feedback to be completed by deadline of midnight**

**We would like your comments on the Council's proposals for Blacon High School outlined in the accompanying consultation document. Please read this document before completing this survey.**

**Q1.** Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the proposal to enlarge by expansion Blacon High School?

Agree

Disagree

Not sure/don't know

**Q2.** Do you wish to make any additional comments with regards to the proposed change to enlarge by expansion Blacon High School?

**About you**

The information you give in this section is strictly confidential and will be used to analyse the responses. All questions are voluntary; please leave blank any you wish not to answer. No information will be released that would allow identification of you as an individual or of your household.

**Q3.** To which of the following categories do you belong?

Parent/carer  Pupil\*  Governor  Member of school staff

Local resident  Other\*\* \*\* Please specify.....

\* Please ensure an adult knows you are completing this survey

**Q4.** Which school (if any) are you linked with .....

**Q5.** Please tell us your postcode (not full address).....

Please send any responses back by the deadline of midnight 24 March 2019,

- By post: School Organisation Team, Cheshire West & Chester Council, (Floor 3, Nicholas House) , 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE
- Email: [schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

Thank you for completing this survey.

Additional Information

- Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998 and will comply with the requirements of the Act at all times. The Council will ensure that your personal information is processed fairly and lawfully and in this instance used only for the purpose of validation, which will enable a fair and just consultation.
- At the end of the period of informal consultation the Council will assess the Equality Impact of the proposal to see if it could affect anyone unfairly. We welcome any comments you might wish to make that might help to inform this assessment.

## Accessing Cheshire West and Chester Council information and services

Council information is also available in Audio, Braille, Large Print or other formats. If you would like a copy in a different format, in another language or require a BSL interpreter, please email us at [equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

إذا أردت المعلومات بلغة أخرى أو بطريقة أخرى، نرجو أن تطلب ذلك منا.

যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।

Pokud byste požadovali informace v jiném jazyce nebo formátu, kontaktujte nás

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo uzyskać informacje w innym języku lub w innym formacie, prosimy dać nam znać.

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如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

Türkçe bilgi almak istiyorsanız, bize başvurabilirsiniz.

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔

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