



Ribston Hall High School

Stroud Road, Gloucester, GL1 5LE
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11th June 2018

Dear Parents/Colleagues/Gloucestershire County Council/Other interested parties

Statutory Consultation on the proposed increase to the admissions arrangements and Published Admission Number (PAN) for Ribston Hall High School for 2020 from 120 to 150.

All admission authorities are obliged to consult on changes to their admissions arrangements. As the Admissions Authority for Ribston Hall High School, the Governors are consulting on changes to the admissions arrangements and proposed PAN for the school, starting in September 2020. The proposal to increase the Year 7 intake would not affect the size of the other groups or impact on class sizes. The school would increase progressively year on year until 2024.

The Governing Body and Sarah Colombini, Headteacher, welcome your views on the proposed change to the Published Admission Number (PAN) and admission arrangements for Ribston Hall High School.

Governors feel that RHHS has an important role to play as part of a diverse system of educational provision in which schools are distinguished, not just by examination outcomes, but by ethos, values, and approach to continuous school improvement.

Rationale

The reasons for the proposed changes to our admissions arrangements and increase in PAN at this point are:

- There is a rising demand for secondary school places in Gloucester and the surrounding areas. Gloucestershire County Council has projected a need to accommodate increased numbers of secondary school students from this year onwards;
- Ribston Hall High School is currently oversubscribed. Over 450 students have met the qualifying standard for entry in each of the last three years (2016-455, 2017-535, 2018-570) and demand for places at Ribston Hall High School remains high; evidenced by the number of appeals that have increased from 28 in 2016 to 46 in 2018 .
- A firm belief that grammar schools can be part of an education system that works for all and should do more to encourage able children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds to take the entrance tests. Increasing our PAN will provide more opportunity for able children from disadvantaged backgrounds, who meet our admissions criteria to become part of the Ribston Hall community;
- A strong commitment to challenging the view held by some that grammar schools are 'bastions of privilege' and 'stuffed full of middle class children', (Sir Michael Wilshaw, ex-Chief Inspector of Schools) by ensuring fairer access for disadvantaged pupils;

- A change in our admissions policy will enable us to provide more opportunities for students to apply and be admitted into Ribston Hall High School from more disadvantaged backgrounds; this will be supported by forging strong links with primary schools in of the city of Gloucester including those in GL1;
- We have considered carefully the effect of increasing our PAN on our ethos, values and our educational outcomes and strongly feel that an increase in PAN is the best course of action to ensure that the highest possible standards are sustained.

We hope that the information provided will enable you to understand the reasons for our proposal. Ribston Hall High School is dedicated to continuing to provide an exceptional education for its students to enable them to become independent, confident young people with a strong social conscience, well equipped for adult life in the modern world.

Who is Ribston Hall High School consulting with?

Ribston Hall High School is consulting with parents of children at the school, staff, local residents, parents of any other children aged between two and eleven, MP Richard Graham, governors, Gloucester City Council and other local stakeholders.

The consultation will run from 11th June 2018 to 23rd July 2018 for 6 weeks.

The Governing Body of Ribston Hall High School welcome responses to this consultation on its proposed change to its PAN and admissions arrangements. If you would like to submit responses to the consultation, please do so in writing to Mrs Judith Stevens, Clerk to the Governors, Ribston Hall High School, Stroud Road, Gloucester GL1 5LE or by email to jas@ribstonhall.gloucs.sch.uk

It would be helpful if you would indicate in what capacity you are responding (e.g. parent, teacher, governor etc.) **Please respond by Monday 23rd July 2018 when this consultation will close. All comments will be considered by the Governing Body in July 2018.** If approved, the changes would be introduced for September 2020 entry.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Colombini
Headteacher



Lynda Frall
Chair of Governors