



Cranbourne Business & Enterprise College

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31st January 2017

Dear Parents, Pupils and wider community,

I understand this is a worrying time for all of you. I want to explain why we are proposing an amalgamation of Fort Hill and Cranbourne and to clarify the process the schools are currently within.

A consultation on this proposal is underway as the best way to ensure that we give everyone the opportunity to make their views known. The consultation process is initiated by Hampshire County Council and not the School or Governing body. Instead of forcing change we want your ideas and opinions to help us determine a suitable outcome for both schools, that also takes into account the financial position of both schools brought about by a consistent drop in numbers of pupils.

Rest assured, we recognise this is a challenging position for all of us to be in. Many of us in the governing body are parents of children at the schools so, as you can imagine, we too have many questions of how this proposed amalgamation could be shaped. Please remember the governing body consists of volunteers who dedicate their own free time in supporting the schools to improve educational standards.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the members of the governing body who have worked, and will continue to work, extremely hard in all they have done in dealing with the very difficult matters that we have to deal with.

I would also like to thank the head teachers and staff at both schools for the hard work they are putting in to raise the standards at both schools. They work tirelessly in trying to achieve the best possible outcome for all students.

I must emphasise our decision to propose an amalgamation and to enter a consultation process was heavily guided by the County Council, who have concerns over Fort Hill Community School's future ability to deliver positive outcomes for students with a reducing budget. A lack of funds will mean that the school cannot afford to deliver a full curriculum of subjects for the students and, as governors, it is our public duty to evaluate and monitor the financial position of the schools and take action where required.



I cannot stress enough how important it is that you share your views during the consultation period via the website **and** attend the drop-in sessions so that you can have your opinions and voice heard.

Yours faithfully



John Crawford
Chair of Governors

Reminder of Key Information

The consultation will run until 2nd March 2017

County Council Consultation Website : <http://consultations.hants.gov.uk/active.aspx>

Public Drop-In Sessions

Please note that there will be a 20 minute presentation by HCC Officers followed by time for Questions at each of the following sessions:

4.30pm -5.30pm Wednesday 8th February 2017 at **Fort Hill**

5.30pm -6.30pm Wednesday 8th February 2017 at **Fort Hill**

4.30pm – 5.30pm Thursday 9th February 2017 at **Cranbourne**

5.30pm – 6.30pm Thursday 9th February 2017 at **Cranbourne**

5.30pm – 7.30pm Wednesday 15th February at **Westside Community Centre**

If you are unable to attend one of these sessions or access the consultation online and wish to make a comment, please write to **Glenn Parkinson, Strategic Development Officer, Childrens Services Department, Elizabeth II Court North, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UG**
email strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk by 2nd March 2017