

School Expansion Consultation Response

24th April 2023

Dear Parents/Carers/Local Stakeholders,

As you are aware, we recently consulted with you on the proposed increase of pupil capacity for Wixams Academy in response to the future shortage of secondary school places in Wixams. We received six responses in total, and several visitors attended our two consultation events in March. The main issues that have been raised for us to consider are:

1. Traffic on Green Lane

Whilst the traffic situation during drop-off and pick-up time has improved over the last year, it is still a concern, was raised in the majority of consultation responses, and is the main theme of concern. Bedford Borough Council are working with the relevant property developers in Wixams on the extension of Green Lane so that it becomes a through road. This will mainly solve the issue and we will keep you updated on this. Over the last year, we have seen an increase in the number of pupils walking or cycling to school as the local infrastructure has improved.

2. Lunchtime catering

Another key theme in the consultation responses was the potential problem the increase in pupil number could cause to the serving of food at lunchtime. As you are aware, we have been working closely with Dolce, our new catering provider, to expand the range on offer at lunchtime and to make sure that food is served on time. The number of catering staff will increase as the pupil numbers increase and we will have an additional indoor canteen space at lunchtime as well as an outdoor covered area to make sure that we can cater for any increase in pupils. As mentioned in the consultation correspondence we expect the increase in pupils to be gradual over the next 5 years.

3. Improved Facilities

There is excitement about the planned additional specialist teaching spaces and sports facilities. We are grateful to the local Wixams Residents Association and local sports clubs for attending our consultation events and we discussed that these facilities will be available for local community hire and use, outside of school hours. We have also been approached by the England Cricket Board to secure additional grant funding to make the new sports hall suitable for indoor cricket training.

Although the consultation has now closed we will continue to keep you updated on this development and if you have any further queries on the proposed expansion then feel free to get in

touch at expansionconsultation@BCAT.co.uk. We are particularly interested in working further with local community groups to develop ideas around outside of hours community use.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Spyropoulos'.

Hywel Jones
Chief Executive Officer
BCAT

Paul Spyropoulos
Principal
Wixams Academy