

14 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers of Young People attending Bedelsford, Dysart and St Philip's Schools

Proposed Post-16 SEND campus in Kingston Borough

Achieving for Children (AfC), which provides children's services in Kingston, and Kingston Council are working with Orchard Hill College & Academy Trust (OHC&AT), which runs Bedelsford, Dysart, St Philip's and Orchard Hill College, to progress an exciting proposal for a post-16 SEND campus.

The proposed campus is intended to offer local pathways to some young people who are, or are likely to be attending these settings and to other local young people attending nearby special schools, such as Strathmore, who might benefit from having additional post-16 choice.

As well as classroom spaces for young people with different needs and abilities, we would aim to ensure the provision of a flat for independent-living practice and a wide range of vocational workshops which will give young people sustainable employability skills.

We are confident that a local site can be found for this proposed campus, large enough to have these and other facilities and an outside space. The site will ideally be close to a town centre for travel and shopping and activities within the local community.

For some young people who attend the three special schools, it may be they would benefit from staying on for their post-16 education within the setting they already know well; but we feel it is essential that young people with SEND have the same degree of choice as their mainstream peers.

We are keen to ensure that the campus proposal meets parents/carers and young people's expectations and needs and would like to hear the views of young people and parents/carers on the campus proposal and what the facilities it should contain.

Consultation sessions for the young people will be at each of the schools and facilitated by Grace Over, AfC's Participation Officer. The parents/carers consultation will be held online on Monday 27 September at 7pm. Please email rtucker@orchardhill.ac.uk to register your attendance.

Yours faithfully,



Matthew Paul,
Associate Director, School Place Planning for Kingston and Richmond