



Bodmin College Expansion Proposal 2023 – 2024

Public Consultation Document

13th May 2022 – 20th June 2022

Bodmin College context

Bodmin College is a large 11-19 Single Academy Trust (SAT) that provides an extensive high quality educational experience and excellent pastoral care. At the heart of Bodmin College is a deep commitment to learning and development based on inclusive, personalised support within a nurturing and respectful environment of successful challenge and aspiration.

Our College is characterised by its vision of, 'striving for excellence by putting the learner first'. We aim, in all that we do, to put children at the centre of our decision making processes and at the heart of our four key objectives which are:

- To improve the attainment and progress of all students in all subjects
- To improve the educational opportunities for all students in all subjects
- To improve the quality of the learning experience for all students in all subjects
- To assist and work in partnership with parents and carers to improve students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

This vision and our objectives are underpinned by an ethos in which we expect everyone, 'to be kind, to be polite, to be honest and to work to the very best of their ability'.

The school also provides excellent special educational provision for 42 young people between the ages of 11-16 in the Area Resource Base (Greenfield) with Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) for multiple and complex special educational needs.

Despite being a large secondary school, Bodmin College is proud to retain a friendly, family environment with a strong sense of community belonging; where staff know the students and the students are supported every step of the way. Bodmin College is based in a locality where the community cares deeply about young people, their opportunities and the area in which they live. Bodmin College is absolute and resolute about inclusion, where every person matters; absolute and resolute about attaining academic success; absolute and resolute about nurturing aspiration, innovation, confidence and creativity. Bodmin College seeks to achieve this through traditional values and high expectations for achievement within a disciplined and caring environment. Students are encouraged to enjoy their education, to develop respect for others and, through assuming responsibility, to develop as reliable and mature individuals ready to take an active role in adult life.

Context of Proposed Expansion

Bodmin College currently has a capacity of 1200 11-16 pupils with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 240 students per academic year, plus a 400-place sixth form. Over the past three years, the increasing school-age population of Bodmin and its surrounding area has placed pressure on the availability of school places locally beyond the 240 PAN at Bodmin College.

Since 2019 Bodmin College has made a number of adaptations to meet the increasing demand for secondary school places and to ensure that children within the Bodmin area continue to have access to high quality education within their locality. These adaptations have included increasing staffing, re-organising existing accommodation, increasing resources and expanding pastoral provision in order to increase Operational Capacity (OC). This temporary increase has been achieved through lagged funding and annual Growth Funding awarded by the Local Authority (LA).

However, population forecasts for 2022-2026 have shown that demand for places will continue to exceed the existing PAN and overall pupil numbers will increase above the existing capacity of the College up until 2026.

In order for the LA to meet its statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available for the local community, Bodmin College has been identified as being geographically best placed to cater for this growth in population.

To meet the needs of the local community and continue to provide high quality local education for secondary age children within Bodmin and the surrounding area, Bodmin College has been working closely with Cornwall Council on developing a carefully considered expansion proposal. The proposed expansion will require significant capital money and will be entirely funded by Cornwall Council through its Education Basic Need Capital Programme.

The proposed expansion will provide 200 additional places and increase the College's Operational Capacity to 280 per academic year from Year 7 to Year 11. The plans include:

- A new single storey building comprising of 6 new classrooms (including 2 specialist ICT classrooms), new toilet facilities and additional office facilities.
- A two storey extension to existing canteen to provide further indoor seated dining areas, a student conference room, cycle storage and resource storage.
- Conversion of two existing classrooms into brand new science laboratories.
- Relocation of car-parking facilities.

In developing the plans, a feasibility study was commissioned to explore different options. The explored possibilities for construction have included all associated costs. Various options have been negotiated with the Trust's representatives, architects and the LA to ensure minimum disruption to existing students in the creation of high-quality learning spaces and facilities that will meet the needs of the local school community. Designs have been carefully planned to retain the open, spacious and calm environment of the College and to protect green spaces.

If the proposals are approved, the capital expansion would be completed by September 2023. The College will admit additional pupils above the published PAN of 240 in September 2023, following which Bodmin College intends to review the PAN from September 2024 increasing where necessary.

Whilst school funding is lagged, Bodmin College would receive support from the LA Growth Fund to ensure the levels of additional staffing required are in place to teach, resource lessons and support the students both academically and pastorally through each year of growth above PAN.

Consultation Process

The permanent expansion of the College required to accommodate the increasing student numbers is considered to be a “significant change” by the Department for Education (DfE). ‘Significant Change’ expansion requires the College to undertake public consultation and apply to the Department for Education for a change to its funding agreement. For further information on the ‘Significant Change’ process please follow the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-significant-changes-to-an-existing-academy>

This document marks the start of the consultation period, which will run from 13th May 2022 – 20th June 2022. Under DfE guidance, the consultation process itself is being led by Bodmin College with the full support of the Local Authority.

The consultation process includes but is not limited to:

- Parents/carers of children who attend the school
- Students of the school via the student council
- Staff employed by the school
- The Admissions Forum for Cornwall Council as the local commissioner of school places
- The wider community of Bodmin and surrounding area including:
 - Bodmin Town Council
 - Other parents/carers in the area
 - Other educational settings in the area including; primary, secondary, AP and special schools as well as sixth form and FE colleges.

As part of the expansion consultation, a virtual information evening will be held at 6pm Wednesday 25th May 2022. The event will be hosted on MSTeams and will be accessible via this link:

[Bodmin College Expansion Proposal Virtual Information Evening](#)

Questions for the virtual event should use the title ‘Expansion Consultation’ and be submitted by Tuesday 24th May 2022 via the [contact us](#) section of our website or via our postal address; Bodmin College, Lostwithiel Road, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL13 1DD

To give your views and complete the consultation survey on the expansion proposal please [Click Here](#) or submit your comments directly to the Principal’s PA (Mrs E Gough) at ELG@bodmincollege.co.uk **by 4pm Monday 20th June 2022**.

On conclusion of the consultation process, a ‘*Significant Change to an Open Academy Application*’ will be submitted to the Regional Schools Commissioner who will consider whether to approve/reject a proposal. Alternatively, they may refer the matter to the Secretary of State.

For clarity, this consultation relates specifically to the educational benefits and impact of the proposed expansion, and **not** the Planning Application and build processes. The Planning Application processes will be undertaken **separately** by Cornwall Council, the Local Authority (LA). The processes and consultations relating to the Planning Application will be linked to the application for planning permission and can be found on Cornwall Council's website by following the hyperlink below:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-applications/online-planning-register/>