



Balcarras
From strength to strength

A new school for Cheltenham CONSULTATION Sept-Oct 2017

Gloucestershire County Council has identified a future shortfall in primary and secondary school places in the Cheltenham area. To meet this shortfall Balcarras is proposing to set up a new all through (4-18) school with 2 forms of primary entry and 6 forms of secondary entry. The location of the new school is yet to be identified, but in all likelihood it will be somewhere in the south of the town. Balcarras, in co-operation with other excellent schools in the area, plan to use their considerable experience to set up and manage this new school. This consultation is designed to gather the views and opinions of local people about this initiative.

YES

NO

Do you agree there is a need for a new primary and secondary school in Cheltenham?

Would you support a new school sponsored by Balcarras?

NA

Would you consider sending your child to the new school?

Would the local community benefit from access to the facilities of the new school e.g. sports facilities?

Should the Secretary of State for Education enter into a funding agreement with The Balcarras Academy Trust to open and run a new all-through school in Cheltenham?

Legally this question has to be asked during a consultation for a new school. A full explanation of this question can be found on our website

Are you a: Parent/Carer of a school aged child
Local resident
Local employee/employer/business owner

Member of staff/governor at a school
Representative of a community or youth group
Other (please specify)

Which part of Cheltenham do you live in?

Please use this space if you wish to add any points or suggestions about the new school

*Please send completed questionnaires to Balcarras School, East End Road, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, GL538QF
Alternatively please visit our website: www.balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk*

In partnership with





Balcarras
From strength to strength

A new school for Cheltenham CONSULTATION Sept-Oct 2017

Gloucestershire County Council has identified a future shortfall in primary and secondary school places in the Cheltenham area. After extensive discussion, the trustees of Balcarras Academy Trust have agreed unanimously to produce a sponsorship bid for a new all through school to meet this need.

A number of the primary schools in the town are full and many have already expanded in recent years. The situation at secondary level is similar. This year, for the second time, we have agreed to take an additional class in order to help meet the increase in need. In addition, several Cheltenham secondaries have expanded permanently or soon will. However, forecasts by the county council show that despite these changes demand will far outweigh supply by 2020.

We are therefore proposing to develop a bid for a new school to help provide the places that will ensure parents in Cheltenham have the choice of high quality education for their children.

Our proposals will see us providing excellent education across the full age range, in an all through school. This will cover from reception to sixth form, offering pupils and parents alike more choice and the security of places available into the future.

Balcarras is committed to providing an excellent education to all our local community, including those living well beyond our doorstep. By any measure we are an outstanding school. We share our expertise by working closely with many other schools, either in direct partnership, or via our Teaching School Alliance and Maths Hub: both of which are of national significance and extremely successful initiatives.

We are delighted that several other schools have offered, not just to support our bid, but to collaborate with us in the planning and implementation of the new school. They include Pittville School, St James' Primary School and Cheltenham Ladies' College.

On September 4th we will be launching a public consultation, to inform our bid, to create a new 4-18 all through school for Cheltenham. With Balcarras sponsoring this exciting project, we expect to grow the new school so that it mirrors our comprehensive values, achieves similar levels of success and, in time, develops its own identity within a new multi-academy trust incorporating both it and Balcarras School.

We want to hear what local parents, children, schools and other interested parties think about this idea. To this end we will be holding a number of consultation sessions about our plans and invite all those in the community to contribute their thoughts and ideas.

CONSULTATION SESSION 1 Wednesday 13th September, Balcarras School 5pm-7pm

CONSULTATION SESSION 2 Monday 25th September, St James' Primary School 5pm-7pm

You are very welcome to come along at any time between 5pm and 7pm to look at elements of the bid and to meet with staff and governors. If you are not able to attend either event then please do fill in a questionnaire and send it to the school. The consultation documents will go live from Monday 4th September.

The details about the consultation are available on our website: www.balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

The consultation period will close on Friday 6th October 2017