

July 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

New School for Cheltenham—Consultation Letter to Parents

We are writing to inform you that the trustees of Balcarras Academy Trust have decided to submit a bid to the Department for Education to open a new school in the south of Cheltenham. Many of you will know that in February the Local Authority made public their data for Cheltenham which shows that by 2019 there will be a significant shortfall of school places. The data shows that Cheltenham will require the equivalent of 2 forms of primary entry and 6 forms of secondary entry by the early 2020s. Our proposal is to open a new all through school (4-18) on the south side of the town. The trustees have drawn up a bid which will be sent to the appropriate funding authorities in due course.

On Monday September 4th we will be launching a public consultation which will seek to take into account the views of local people. The consultation will close on Friday October 6th 2017.

We are committed to comprehensive education and, if our bid is successful, our aim would be to set up a school with a very similar ethos to Balcarras. The new school would become part of a Multi Academy Trust with Balcarras, and it would have access to the Balcarras Teaching School Partnership and the GLOW Maths Hub.

We want to reassure you that the education your child receives here at Balcarras will not be affected in any way. The trustees have put in place significant capacity, first of all to put the bid in place and secondly to deliver it, if we are selected. This team of people includes the former headteacher, Chris Healy. We are also delighted that Pittville School, St James' Primary School and Cheltenham Ladies' College will be working with us closely on this project.

You are very welcome to take part in the consultation. All of the details are available on our website www.balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher



Chair of Trustees