

The Bottisham Education Trust Consultation Document

A consultation document on Bottisham Village College becoming a Foundation School and establishing the Bottisham Education Trust

INDEX

	Page
Introduction	3
Consultation on Bottisham Village College becoming a Foundation School	4
Consultation on establishing the Bottisham Education Trust:	
What are Trust schools?	5
Why establish the Bottisham Education Trust?	7
How would creating a Trust benefit students at the college?	9
The potential Trust partners	10
The consultation process	14
Consultation Schedule	15
How can you contribute to the consultation?	16

INTRODUCTION

The Governing Body of Bottisham Village College is proposing a change of school category from Community school to Foundation school and acquiring a Charitable Trust to be called The Bottisham Education Trust, to take effect from September 2010.

Bottisham Village College is an 11-16 village college, committed to helping every student achieve their full potential, both socially and academically, so that all of our students can go on to live happy and fulfilled lives, playing a key role as active, responsible citizens.

We have already been identified as a High Performing School by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and whilst we celebrate this success, we are also committed to continual improvement, as illustrated in our College Mission Statement:

'A reflective learning community committed to achieving and sharing excellence in an environment in which every child matters'

Consequently, we continue to set challenging targets for improvement and development, as summarised in our comprehensive College Improvement Plan. Our belief is that in order to achieve these aims we need to ensure that we are working collaboratively with a wider range of partner organisations and agencies; establishing a Trust would provide an excellent opportunity to build strong and sustainable partnerships, which we believe would lead to improved levels of achievement and life chances for all of our students.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of the proposal. We have attempted to keep the body of the document concise; more detailed information can be found in the Trust proposal section of the College website at www.bottishamvc.org . This provides a Frequently Asked Questions section which sets out in more detail some of the issues referred to in this paper. It also provides a link to other useful websites.

Paper copies of all documents are available from the college on request.

CONSULTATION ON BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE BECOMING A FOUNDATION SCHOOL

INTRODUCTION

In order to become a Trust school a school must first be a Foundation school. This means that Bottisham Village College must first of all change its current status as a Community school to a Foundation school.

WHAT IS A FOUNDATION SCHOOL?

Foundation schools are not a new concept. There are many Foundation schools in the Cambridgeshire area already.

In brief, the main characteristics of a Foundation school are as follows.

- ❑ They are part of the Local Authority family of maintained schools.
- ❑ They receive their funding via the Local Authority and are accountable to the Local Authority, just like Community schools.
- ❑ The governing body employs the school staff instead of the Local Authority.
- ❑ The governing body is the admissions authority for the school. However, the governing body must continue to abide by the National Framework for Admissions.
- ❑ The governing body owns the land and buildings that make up the school. Where a Foundation school is supported by a Trust, as is proposed here, then the Trust will hold the land and assets for the school that make up the Trust.
- ❑ The governing body of the school will continue to have responsibility for the day to day running of the school, including managing the budget.

Foundation schools are not the same as the Grant Maintained schools of the 1980s or the more recently established Academies

Existing teaching staff will continue their employment under the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document and teachers' pension scheme. New teachers will be employed on exactly the same national terms and conditions.

Existing support staff will transfer on the basis of current terms and conditions; the governing body of Bottisham Village College is committed to continuing to employ future support staff on the current basis, and in addition, to apply any future national agreement.

Bottisham Village College remains committed to working in partnership with parents, the local community, the Local Authority and other local schools. There are real benefits in working with other schools and organisations and we want to strengthen those relationships where we can.

The College will continue to provide the statutory curriculum and a range of extra activities, just as we do now. In real terms, therefore, there will be little difference to the day-to-day organisation of the school.

CONSULTATION ON ESTABLISHING THE BOTTISHAM EDUCATION TRUST

WHAT ARE TRUST SCHOOLS?

'A trust school uses the experience, energy and expertise from other schools, professions and organisations as a lever to raise standards in school.'

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT)

Trust schools are a new kind of school. Trust schools set up a charitable trust which establishes a long-term relationship with external partners who commit themselves to schools into the future. To create a Trust, a school must first of all be or become a Foundation school. Bottisham Village College is therefore also consulting on becoming a Foundation school as part of this process, as already set out on page 4.

The purpose of a Trust is to create a long term, stable and sustainable organisation whose members have the energy, commitment and expertise to strengthen and support the work of the College's leadership team and governing body.

All educational Trusts must have, as their objects, development of community cohesion and a positive impact on standards at the schools they support.

The main characteristics of foundation schools with a trust are as follows:

- ❑ The Trust holds the land and assets in trust for the school
- ❑ The governing body maintains day-to-day control
- ❑ The school becomes its own admissions authority but must comply with the National Admissions Code and continue to agree admission arrangements with the Local Authority. Our school would continue to operate our current admissions policy
- ❑ All teaching and support staff in the schools are employees of the governing bodies rather than of the Local Authority
- ❑ The school gains charitable status and so can bid for additional funding from charities
- ❑ Trust schools are able to enlist the committed support of partners to help to provide an even better education for their students

- ❑ The Trust would appoint two governors to the Full Governing Body of the college. Further details on governance are available in the Frequently Asked Questions section of the college website.
- ❑ Students, parents and staff would see no difference in the day to day running of the school. Over time, the work we do with our partners would increase opportunities for our students and help to improve outcomes.
- ❑ It is envisaged that the Trust would meet approximately three times a year; one of these meetings would be an Annual General Meeting, which would be open to all of those with an interest in the Trust.

There is more information about Trust schools at the Specialist Schools and Academies website: www.specialistschools.org.uk/trustschools

WHY ESTABLISH THE BOTTISHAM EDUCATION TRUST?

Bottisham Village College is already committed to working in collaborative partnerships with a range of other schools and external agencies to broaden and strengthen opportunities for all students

We have very well established collaborative partnerships with our link primary schools. This has been instrumental in embedding effective transition between the primary and secondary phases, as well as supporting the development of teaching and learning in the area of Humanities, and more recently Applied Learning, our College specialisms.

In recent years the brief of this partnership has widened through the establishment of a locality based approach to the delivery of children's services. This has resulted in a more integrated and effective provision, based on close working relationships with colleagues in other support services. This work will be further strengthened in the near future, with the establishment of a permanent and purpose-built Locality Base, Youth Centre and Children's Centre on our site.

The challenging Every Child Matters agenda strikes a chord with our core values, as identified by Ofsted in September 2007 who stated,

"Opportunities for students to enjoy school and achieve well...shows that Every Child Matters is both policy and practice."

The vision for the Trust would be to enable us to underpin and support the wider collaboration that is essential for the full implementation of the Every Child Matters agenda, together with strengthening opportunities for life-long learning in our wider community.

The Trust would help us to achieve the challenging Every Child Matters outcomes:

- **Be Healthy**
- **Stay Safe**
- **Enjoy and Achieve**
- **Making A Positive Contribution**
- **Achieve Economic Well-Being**

It would do this by enabling us to develop active and sustainable links with a range of partners. These links would initially focus on providing greater opportunities for meaningful relationships to develop between our students and representatives from partner organisations, as well as providing expertise to advise and support staff in the development of the broader

curriculum. In practice, this may manifest itself through representatives from partner organisations:

- ✓ participating in Personal, Social & Health Education collapsed days
- ✓ speaking to groups of students with a particular curriculum focus
- ✓ providing work placement opportunities
- ✓ providing an insight into the world of work to support the delivery of the work related curriculum
- ✓ forging links with a particular curriculum area.

In the longer term we would be keen to explore opportunities to develop joint professional development opportunities for staff which could explore approaches to leadership development in each partner organisation.

The intention is that the establishment and membership of the Trust would bring mutual benefits to all participants and the broader community, including increased empathy and understanding between the various organisations.

HOW WOULD CREATING A TRUST BENEFIT STUDENTS AT THE COLLEGE?

We believe that working in partnership can only improve the provision we can offer to young people, enabling them to achieve the highest standards of achievement and personal well-being. The Trust would offer the following benefits:

- ✓ Establishing a legal framework for our partnership would allow us to safeguard it for the future and give us a basis on which to build capacity.
- ✓ It is felt that the college has more to gain through its partners meeting collectively as members of the Trust than with working with them as separate organisations.
- ✓ Having a Trust with charitable status would enable the Trust to bid for further funding to support and sustain all aspects of our work.
- ✓ Trust partners would provide additional capacity in a wide range of ways, bringing expertise not at this time readily available to us.
- ✓ The government is committed to self-governing, confident schools, in the light of changes to the role of the local authority. It is likely that Trust schools will, in the future, enjoy opportunities not available to those without Trust status.
- ✓ As a charity, the Trust will have clear objectives that are recognised as being for the benefit of the public, as required by law. The external participants of the Trust, together with the governors of Bottisham Village College, will establish an appropriate legal structure to ensure that these objectives are met, and to clarify what each participant's contribution will be.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- ✓ Bottisham Village College will be designated 'outstanding' by Ofsted, particularly with reference to its implementation of the Every Child Matters agenda.
- ✓ Levels of student achievement at Key Stage 4 will improve.
- ✓ The aspirations of all of our students will be high and as a result the number of young people not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) will remain low, the ultimate aim being to ensure that 100% are in education, employment and training aged 19.
- ✓ The potential future expansion of the Trust to include partner primary schools would support further successful transition, raising aspirations and attainment across the whole age-range
- ✓ The collaborative working of the Trust in improving the life chances of all students will make a significant contribution to community cohesion.
- ✓ The Trust's work will be viewed locally and nationally as a model of good practice in the support of children, young people and their families.

POTENTIAL TRUST PARTNERS: PEN PORTRAIT OF EACH EXTERNAL ORGANISATION

CAMBRIDGE BUILDING SOCIETY

Is an independent, locally centred mutual society, which has been active since 1850. It has a substantial local branch network. It prides itself on its involvement in the community, and is involved in supporting a number of local events and charitable activities.

Possible areas of involvement with the college include:

- *Supporting the development of financial awareness in students, including areas such as 'managing your money' and family budgeting*
- *Getting ready for the world of work, eg developing interview techniques and CV preparation*
- *Leadership development opportunities for students and staff*

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

Is a health and social care Foundation Trust providing mental health and learning disability services. It is a designated Cambridge University Teaching Trust working closely with the University Department of Psychiatry. It also works in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council in the provision of learning disability services.

It is a major provider of specialist child and adolescent mental health services with many specialist regional and nationally recognised services.

Possible areas of involvement with the college include:

- *Supporting the PSHE curriculum in our aim to develop greater understanding, empathy and emotional resilience in our students*
- *Visiting speakers, and work-place visits for students following the BTec course in Health & Social Care*
- *Development opportunities for members of staff delivering the BTec course in Health & Social Care to ensure that their subject knowledge is enhanced*

FACULTY OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Is the Teacher Training Department of the University with an international reputation for its school based research programme. It is already a major partner of the school through its teacher training programme, its CPD programme and the school's involvement in its broad ranging research programme.

Possible areas of involvement with the college include:

- *Support in the further development of a research culture for students and staff*
- *Support the evaluation of the impact of college developments and initiatives, including, in time, the effectiveness of the trust*
- *Providing access to current research findings into factors affecting adolescent well-being*

THE MARSHALL GROUP OF COMPANIES

Is a major local employer headquartered on an 800 acre site on the edge of the school's catchment area. It operates worldwide in the field of aerospace and military vehicle engineering and design and also has a network of automotive dealerships.

It is privately owned, has now celebrated its centenary and employs many former Bottisham Village College students. It takes its corporate and social responsibilities very seriously.

Bottisham Village College has enjoyed a close working relationship with Marshall's for many years.

Possible areas of further involvement with the college include:

- *Curriculum links with science and technology to enhance students' understanding of the application of knowledge in the workplace*
- *Support with the development of enterprise opportunities for all students*
- *Enabling students on Tec and Diploma courses to gain understanding of key skills / knowledge in the areas of customer care, health and safety, transport and hospitality*

THE NATIONAL STUD

Is the showcase of British thoroughbred horse breeding, housed on a 500 acre site close to the school's catchment area. The Jockey Club owns the Stud. One of its primary roles is to provide a first-rate residential education and training facility for young people entering the industry or seeking higher qualifications within it.

Possible areas of involvement with the college include:

- *Curriculum links with the science curriculum in areas such as drugs testing*
- *Curriculum links with the BTec Sport course*
- *Enabling students on BTec and Diploma courses to gain understanding of key skills / knowledge in the areas of customer care and health and safety*

RED 2 GREEN

Is a registered charity which runs projects across Cambridgeshire, providing leisure, educational and work experience for over 600 people within a range of disabilities, including mental health problems, learning disabilities, sensory impairment, physical disability and social communication disorders.

The Charity already runs a facility on the school campus and works closely with the school to promote social responsibility amongst students and to help certain students pursue vocational qualifications in horticulture.

Possible areas of involvement with the college include:

- *Support the PSHE curriculum in helping our students to develop empathy and understanding*
- *Visiting speakers, and work-place visits for students following the BTec course in Health & Social Care*
- *Development opportunities for staff working with students with specific special needs, such as Aspergers Syndrome*
- *Further development of the Anglesey Abbey joint horticulture project*

JOHN LEWIS PARTNERSHIP

The partnership is both the UK's largest department store retailer and the owner of the Waitrose supermarket chain. The business is owned by its permanent staff who are all partners in the business. From the outset the partnership has taken its community responsibilities seriously and has a clear Corporate Social Responsibility Policy. The partnership has been a key part of the local retail provision in Cambridge City and has recently opened a much larger new store in the newly developed Grand Arcade in Cambridge.

Possible areas of involvement with the college include:

- *Support with the development of enterprise opportunities for all students*
- *Enabling students on BTec and Diploma courses to gain understanding of key skills / knowledge in the areas of customer care, health and safety and hospitality*
- *Curriculum links with the Media BTec to develop students' knowledge and understanding of advertising and marketing*

COMMON AREAS OF INTEREST

Partners will have specific areas of interest which will prove relevant and beneficial, some of which are referred to above. However, it is also felt that all of the partners can contribute as follows:

1. Helping students to understand employers' expectations and give them an opportunity to develop clear ideas of the career opportunities available to them; improving their 'readiness for employment'.
2. Supporting us in our aim to provide high quality leadership development opportunities for all of our students.
3. Providing high quality work experience placements.
4. Contribution to assemblies
5. Providing real life scenarios to support Functional skills
6. Offering business/leadership mentoring to students and staff
7. Helping students to develop interview skills
8. Supporting us in the further development of our enterprise curriculum.
9. Helping us to ensure that the curriculum is appropriately reflecting the requirements and expectations of future employees.
10. Working with us to raise the level of social responsibility, community awareness, citizenship and financial responsibility of school leavers.
11. Helping the Governing Body and the leadership team to learn lessons from others about how to manage and evaluate their activities more effectively.

The various partners will come together with the Governing Body of the college to form the Trust. The Trust will have a Board of Directors made up of representatives of the external partner organisations and the governing body of the college.

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

We have used the criteria outlined by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) at www.dcsf.gov.uk/schoolorg in setting up this consultation to make sure that we:

- ✓ consult widely throughout the process;
- ✓ explain our proposals clearly and consider who may be affected, what questions are likely to be asked and the timescale for responses;
- ✓ ensure that all our communications are concise and accessible;
- ✓ provide feedback after the consultation has finished.

The following groups will be asked to contribute to the consultation process:

- ✓ Parents and carers of students at Bottisham Village College and our partner primary schools
- ✓ Members of staff and students at Bottisham Village College;
- ✓ Other potentially affected local schools, colleges, groups and organisations;
- ✓ Local Parish Councils;
- ✓ East Cambridgeshire District Council;
- ✓ South Cambridgeshire District Council
- ✓ Cambridgeshire County Council;
- ✓ Relevant Trade Unions and professional associations;
- ✓ Local Members of Parliament.
- ✓ The Learning Skills Council
- ✓ The Diocesan Board

Please let us know if there are any other individuals or organisations you think we should involve in this consultation.

CONSULTATION SCHEDULE

Action	Date
Consult with parents and local stakeholders.	Mon 18th January – Fri 26th February 2010
Distribution of consultation paper	Monday 18 th January 2010
Consultation with Student Council	Week beg 18 th January 2010
Open Consultation meeting at Bottisham Village College	Tuesday 26 th January 2010 at 7.00 pm
Consultation meeting for staff	Thursday 28 th January at 3.20pm
Deadline for responses to proposals	Friday 26 th February 2010
Full Governing Body meeting to consider the outcome of the consultation process and decide whether to proceed to publish a Statutory Proposal.	Monday 8th March 2010 at 6pm

HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONSULTATION?

We are very interested in your views on our proposals. You can express them in the following ways:

- ✓ Completing the questionnaire and return it to the school office as a hard copy or email a copy to consultation@bottishamvc.org
- ✓ Writing to the Clerk of Governors c/o the school office
- ✓ Emailing your comments to consultation@bottishamvc.org
- ✓ Attending the Trust Consultation meeting on Tuesday 26th January at 7.00 pm at Bottisham Village College

The deadline for the submission of any comments or responses to the proposals is Friday 26th February 2010.

Please note that this is a public consultation exercise and therefore the content of your response may be summarised or reproduced in the feedback that we give on the consultation process. However the college will not disclose names and addresses provided by any person who responds in an individual capacity, e.g. a parent/carer or local resident.

As you can see from the published consultation timetable, this is the first of two opportunities to give your views on the proposals. Following this consultation, the governors will review all comments and will decide whether to go ahead and if so, whether to amend the proposals to reflect any suggestions or concerns that emerge through the consultation process. There will then be an opportunity to comment on any statutory proposals before the governing body formally consider a decision to form the Bottisham Education Trust.