



4th November 2019

Dear Parents, Carers & Neighbours

Consultation on changes to admissions criteria for entry to Riddlesdown Collegiate in September 2021

As you may recall, the admissions criteria for entry to Riddlesdown Collegiate includes giving preference to children who attend five named feeder primary schools - Atwood, Gresham, Greenvale, Harris Primary Academy Kenley and Selsdon. The current admissions criteria have not significantly changed for over fifteen years. In that time, standards at the Collegiate have continued to improve and, consequently, our reputation with parents is strong and we are increasingly oversubscribed each year. For the 328 places we have in current Year 7, we received almost 1500 applications, but only a very small number of these places were offered to children who live close to the Collegiate but who did not meet any of the earlier criteria. The pattern of applications in recent years has now meant that many children who live very close to the Collegiate are not being offered a place because so many places are being offered to children who attend our named feeder primary schools but who may live much further away. At the same time, we remain a partially selective school and so, whilst this accounts for a much smaller number, very local children are being further displaced by those being offered a place based on their score in the ability test.

Therefore, in order to give more local children a greater chance of being offered a place at the Collegiate, our admissions authority, the Board of Directors of The Collegiate Trust, has decided to consult on changes to our admissions criteria for entry in September 2021 (which would affect current Year 5 and below). **The consultation begins today and proposes the removal of feeder schools and the ability test from the admissions criteria, which would lead to a greater number of children who live close to the Collegiate being offered a place at Riddlesdown Collegiate.** This would enable us to better serve our local community and would also bring fringe benefits, such as more students being able to walk to school and consequently less congestion in the neighbourhood.

I hope that you will see this as good news and that you will be keen to respond positively to the consultation by completing the questionnaire at <http://tctorg.uk/admission-criteria> which includes the opportunity to add your own comments. **If you do not let us know what you think, we will not be able to take your views into consideration – so, if you think this would be a good idea, please tell us!** The consultation will end on 16th December 2019 and the Board of Directors will then review all responses before publishing any decisions about changes to the admissions criteria in February 2020.

Thank you for your engagement with this process.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Dey
Principal