

22nd February 2022

School Expansion Proposal

Dear KAA Parents & Carers,

We're excited to share with you our plans for a **slight expansion of student numbers** here at KAA from September 2023 onwards. To accommodate our extra students, we plan to build **seven additional classrooms** in the spring and summer of 2023. This letter provides an overview of our plans and invites parents to respond with their views.

In total, we will have **80 more students** under the new arrangements, however growth will be phased over a period of several years. Approximately 50 of the extra students will be in Years 7-11 (*10 per year*) and 30 in our Sixth Form (*15 each in Y12 & 13*).

There are two factors driving the need for growth:

- 1) **Demand for more places in Year 7-11.** There is currently a need in The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (RBKC) to increase the overall number of secondary school places. As KAA is an outstanding school and popular with parents, the Local Authority want to partner with us to create this extra capacity.
- 2) **More breadth and inclusion at Sixth Form.** If we grow in Year 7-11, we also need to think about how this affects our post-16 offer. We want to introduce a small number of new "T Level" courses, which will have slightly lower entry criteria than our current A Level offer, and offer a different style of learning. This should allow more home-grown KAA students to stay with us for Sixth Form. We are planning on expanding our specialist autism provision (The Grandin Centre) into Sixth Form too, meaning a small number of Grandin students can stay with us for Y12 & 13.

How will pupil numbers be affected?

Although KAA's current official "Pupil Allocation Number" (PAN) is 1,140, we have had more students than this in school for several years now. This is in response to the high demand for places locally, and the economies of scale that being a larger school brings. This policy of going "above PAN" is common in West London - most successful academies will do a version of it - as it keeps schools financially secure.

A breakdown of current and future numbers is below:

Current PAN	Current Student Numbers	Future PAN	Future Student Numbers
1,140	1,260	1,320	1,340

Under the new arrangements we do not expect to go over PAN in the same way - instead the PAN and the reality will be matched more closely.

Will the look and feel of the school change?

The proposed site of the extra classrooms is the 3rd Floor Art Terrace, on the Silchester Road side of the school. To compensate for the loss of space on the terrace, we are planning a new outdoor communal area on the roof. A new staircase and toilets will also be added internally.

The Grenfell Memorial Garden, currently located at one end of the Art Terrace, will either be kept in place or repositioned in the new rooftop area. We will consult directly with students from survivor and bereaved families before any decision is made, and it will be based on their views as to what works best for this important area of our school.

KAA is lucky to have a distinctive building which people in our community know well. **The overall look and feel of our building will not change as a result of these works.** The new classrooms will be in keeping with the current design, and the outward appearance of the building won't be altered in any significant way.

Planning permission and project management

Please note this is not a planning consultation. RBKC will handle all planning matters separately, and there will be detailed analysis on all possible impacts on residents. Full designs and specifications for the project will be shared, and people will be able to respond formally. This letter is an initial communication to make our parent community aware, and gauge the level of support for the expansion.

How will it be paid for?

We anticipate the total cost of the new classrooms will be £4 million. The project has already secured a total of £3 million in funding from RBKC, and we are bidding to the Department of Education for the remaining capital.

What are the risks?

With any change like this, there could be risks or unintended consequences. We consider the main potential issues to be:

Risk	Mitigation
New T Level courses at Sixth Form do not prove popular with students, or we don't deliver them to the same "outstanding" standards as current courses.	<p>Just because something is new doesn't mean it can't be excellent! We are planning to use the same approach we employed when opening our Sixth Form in 2016, to make these new courses a success. This will involve careful planning and training for teachers, detailed marketing to students, and partnering with other schools and colleges that are already delivering these courses to a high standard.</p> <p>We are currently researching which T Levels to introduce, matching these against students' interests and our staffing expertise. It's likely there will be just two courses to begin with, so initial numbers will be small.</p>

Risk	Mitigation
The construction of the new classrooms causes disruption to the running of the school.	This will be covered in planning consultation, but we can say now that the company delivering the project have extensive experience of this kind of work and are confident it can fitted around the day-to-day running of the school. They are the same team that recently delivered a similar project at All Saints Catholic College in St Charles Square, which was very successful. Any construction work that could disturb learning will be completed in the school holidays.
Having more students in school makes the building crowded or unsafe.	This is a question that we have explored in detail. We feel the extra staircase, toilets and new rooftop area will create the extra space we need. Because we are already above PAN, the real increase in student numbers is actually quite modest – just 80 in total. 30 of the additional students will be in Sixth Form, which is easier from a behavioral point of view, as students are more mature and independent. The increase is also phased over several years, which will allow us to observe and manage any issues about student movement around the school.

Conclusions

Although only at an early stage, we hope parents will share our excitement at this planned expansion. Our current arrangements mean that many local families are disappointed to not secure a place at KAA each year. Our extra classrooms won't remove that problem completely, but they will help. The introduction of T Levels and autism support at Sixth Form will also provide new curriculum opportunities for local students.

Further details about the proposals can be found here: <https://kaa.org.uk/the-academy/expansion-consultation>

Parents now have a chance to offer their support or ask questions / raise concerns. In the first instance, this can be done via an email to info@kaa.org.uk. There will be an initial period of consultation from today (Tuesday 22nd February 2022) to Monday 4th April 2022 at noon. All responses will be collated and reviewed by the Board of Trustees, who will use them to consider next steps. We will then update parents and provide whatever further communication that may be needed.

With best wishes,



David Benson
Principal