



Catmose College
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Principal: Stuart Williams

25 January 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Catmose College remains committed to a sustainable post-16 solution which involves all three 11-16 colleges equally, that recreates as far as possible a successful independent Post-16 College. We know of no substantive reason why this is not achievable.

By mid-July of last year the three colleges, the County Council and Tresham, in consultation with the DCSF, had developed a detailed proposal which included provision for all three of the 11-16 colleges becoming post-16 admissions authorities managing a central college. The College had questions regarding aspects of these proposals in order to ensure the provision was sustainable, manageable and critically would not compromise our existing 11-16 provision but we anticipated that these would be resolved and the proposals ratified by the College governors in September 2009.

The College does not know what led to these proposals being discarded between July and August. We were not asked to become more involved and were not contacted by any representative of the County Council to inform us of difficulties. Catmose College has always been passionate about post-16 education and in no way did we walk away, or in any way demonstrate an unwillingness to get involved immediately. We were however issued with a letter from the County Council on August 24 stating that Casterton could be the only admissions authority for post-16. We had, in the space of a summer holiday, gone from a consensual plan to the current divisive one; we still do not understand why.

The admissions authority is key to this debate; the institution that undertakes this role will be responsible for all aspects of post-16 education including but not limited to the curriculum, ethos, staffing and examination results. If only one of the colleges can be assigned this role why was there not an open and transparent process to decide which would be most suitable? The preference of Catmose College remains that a new college is formed, be its own admissions authority, have its own Principal but be governed in partnership with the three 11-16 colleges.

There is no doubt that next year 93% of courses will be delivered in Oakham; but what are the plans for the long term and in particular for the new building? Where will it be located? Will £5m be enough to build adequate facilities? How will the split in provision between



Casterton and Oakham change? Why split the provision across two sites if the vast majority of the provision will be in Oakham? Who will pay for transport between the two sites?

Catmose College continues to oppose the current proposals but believes that a solution can be found if all parties are willing to re-engage in meaningful discussion.

I would urge you to attend the public consultation meetings to express your view regarding Post-16 education in Rutland. The first consultation meeting is at 6.30pm on Wednesday 27 January at Rutland County Museum in Oakham.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart Williams". The letters are cursive and fluidly connected.

Stuart Williams
On behalf of the governing body