



Catmose College  
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Principal: Stuart Williams

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Dear Sir/Madam

Catmose College has been oversubscribed for many years, this means that every year we must turn down applications from families for places. It is forecast that this situation will worsen with the continued growth of housing across Rutland. All Rutland secondary colleges are currently over-subscribed and this is forecast to continue. There is nothing more difficult than to say no to local children who are desperate for a College place; in recent years we have had to turn away families from areas close to the College meaning long bus rides for young children needing a secondary place. We are therefore looking for your support to ensure that this issue can be addressed without compromising the high-quality education we offer. In partnership with Rutland County Council we plan to offer an additional 30 places per year starting with our first increased intake in September 2022 when we plan to admit 240 students rather than our usual 210 into Year 7. We do not plan to admit additional students into older year groups currently in the College as this would prejudice the efficient education of our existing students.

The College's ethos is centred on academic excellence because of high-quality teaching complemented by a very broad range of extra-curricular offer in the arts, performance, music and sport. We are one of the largest and most successful centres for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. We also offer around one hundred different extra-curricular activities which all students access every Wednesday through our Electives scheme. These opportunities are broadened further through a very large range of trips within the UK and abroad, which in recent years have included diverse experiences including Iceland, Nepal and London. With additional students joining us each year in Year 7, the range of both academic courses and extra-curricular opportunities will broaden further as our financial and staffing resources grow to support these additional students. We will not compromise the quality of our provision because of this growth.

We are also conscious of the impact of our growth on other secondary schools. The Local Authority projections show that this growth is needed to meet local need, we do not plan to change our admissions criteria or where we recruit students from. We have always been a College rooted in the local community and this growth will not change that. We are only aiming to continue to meet the local demand from Oakham and the surrounding area and will work with our local partners to minimise any impact on their admissions.

To support this growth, Rutland County Council have committed in the region of £5 million to expand our buildings and provide the resources we need to support the additional students. This is a significant investment which we will use to improve our already impressive facilities further. The first phase will involve refurbishing an existing part of the building, which until recently, was leased to the Local Authority. This has now been returned to us and will provide an additional five classrooms, office space, toilets and lockers to support the expanded Modern Foreign Languages provision. By moving Modern Foreign Languages, we will be able to further expand our Client Services provision (student welfare and behaviour support team) to offer a broader range of pastoral and welfare support to our students. As the Local Authority will no longer require their car parking bays, we will be able to reallocate further parking to the College and Sports Centre. The second phase of the project will involve a new building designed to support science and technology study with new laboratories, technology and computing facilities. The final phase will be to adapt existing facilities to ensure we have the space and resources we need to support our community.

We are interested in your views on these proposals and have set up a short online survey, which will take a few minutes to complete. The Trust will consider all responses before seeking formal permission from the government to proceed with these plans. All responses must be received by 8 October in order for the Trust to consider them.

To complete the survey please click on the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5G7B5WM>

Alternatively, if you would like to complete the survey on a paper format, please contact [office@catmosecollege.com](mailto:office@catmosecollege.com) or pick up a printed version from the College reception.

Yours faithfully

Stuart Williams