

The SASH Education Trust Vision

The Sash Schools will be an excellent additional local provision for children and families in the community of Slough. They will offer more choice of high quality teaching and learning for parents in an area that retains several selective schools.

The proposal for the schools comes from a unique and innovative partnership involving the Slough Association of Secondary Headteachers (SASH); the head teachers of all of the thirteen existing secondary school providers in Slough. This includes community, foundation, grammar, voluntary aided, academies and special schools.

The partnership collaborated to propose, the first SASH School, Ditton Park Academy, in response to a) the opportunity to create a school which draws on the best of existing practice, b) the chance to introduce inspirational and 21st Century learning models from the school's inception and c) in order to address what is predicted to be a serious gap in local secondary school places by 2016.

Ditton Park Academy is a 900 place co-educational secondary school. It will have a sixth form with 200 places. A total of 1100 once the school is at capacity. The sixth form will be developed as the school grows in order to meet the requirements for places as the demand increases and in light of the need to address educational, employment and training places for pupils with regard to the raising of the participation age. Ditton Park Academy currently has 115 students and continues to increase as a result of the growing reputation we have in the community and the continued support from other local schools. Parents and students are delighted with the progress that is being made and the attention this year group is receiving. It is very rare that some of the youngest students get such support but one that will have huge benefits to them as individuals later in life.

We want our pupils to leave school confident in their ability to succeed and able to enter a world of work or education able to learn new skills and engage in business markets that no one is yet able to define. Our pupils will be fully active citizens and the future leaders of tomorrow.

SASH Schools are inclusive schools providing an education model that is able to adapt to a wide range of learning styles and learning needs. Our personalised approach is attractive to pupils whatever their talents, be those academic and /or creative and practical. They will provide educational opportunities that enable our local young people to achieve to the best that they can, achieve to a very high standard and gain skills and expertise that will enable them to be the first choice employees of the local business sector. They are characterised by the creative, innovative and leadership opportunities that it provides for all pupils and adult learners.

Overall, a broad and balanced curriculum offer results in excellent standards and outcomes being achieved through the National Curriculum eventually including GCSEs and A Levels, International Baccalaureate, high quality vocational courses and relevant work related learning.

We will achieve our vision for each of our pupils through a rigorous focus on matching our curriculum and learning opportunities with pupils' learning needs; helping them to understand how they learn best; building positive relationships and providing activities that challenge and extend their aspirations.

Rationale

a) Slough school leavers need to be able to access the jobs available from the major industries based in the area.

Slough's workplace economy comprises an excellent location and infrastructure and is thus home to large, competitive and world-class businesses. For example; Mars; Network – i; O2; Siemens; Reckitt Benckiser; GlaxoSmithKline and Akzo Nobel.

The workplace economy however fills its higher-order jobs with professionals who commute in from outside the area.

The resident-based economy is smaller, less well-qualified and is more greatly characterised by the barriers to employment and enterprise than the resident economies of the surrounding districts. As a result there is substantial out commuting to lower order jobs (such as at Heathrow), greater unemployment and deprivation and lower levels of employment and entrepreneurship amongst Slough residents. The SASH Schools will explicitly aim to redress the balance. The schools will have the promotion of enterprise and creativity very much at its heart.

The SASH Schools will aim to achieve our goal of ensuring that pupils from Slough's schools can go on to get excellent jobs locally and help to sustain the growth of a local economy by cultivating a workforce with the mindset and skills to adapt and compete in an ever-changing economy.

The curriculum provided enables access by all learners to high quality and diverse learning opportunities relevant to their individual needs and enabling them to develop the skills and expertise required by local employers.

b) Collaboration of the Slough Association of Secondary Headteachers (SASH) in promoting their own school provides a unique opportunity for pupils to share in the widest possible range of tuition and expertise available in local schools.

The SASH partnership provides the basis for the delivery of a vibrant education for local pupils. Our proposed new schools is at the centre of the development of our strategy to ensure that there is the widest possible curriculum choice provided to young people in the area and that it is provided in as coherent a manner as possible.

Through the sharing of the subject specialist expertise available across the partnership either through direct tuition or through virtual learning pupils in The SASH Schools will have access to the best possible curriculum offer available.

The SASH Schools will be at the forefront of the development of a collaborative approach to learning that we plan to develop and implement over the next few years.

By working collaboratively together we ensure in the longer term, that all pupils will be able to have access to a real choice of subject options. We build expertise across the schools to ensure that there is a planned approach to the investment in particular subject areas and to

avoid unnecessary overprovision.

In the future, it could be routine for pupils in KS4 and 5 to participate in subjects on offer in a school other than their own. Older pupils may travel to another school for a particular lesson but many lessons will be “streamed”.

c) The Schools will provide high quality education for local children. It will be within walking distance from the homes of its pupils.

The diversity of secondary schools in Slough means that for some pupils the journey to and from school each day involves travel across the Borough. In addition, a number of pupils are travelling across the Council boundary into the neighbouring boroughs of Windsor and Maidenhead or Buckinghamshire.

The SASH Schools will provide a high quality local school within walking distance of our pupil's homes.

d) There is an increasing need for additional secondary school places from 2014 onwards.

Analysis of figures provided by the local authority demonstrate that even with their current plans to provide additional Year 7 classes there will still be a shortfall of secondary school places from the year 2014.

For the academic year 2014/2015 an additional 6 forms of entry to the current capacity of Slough schools will be required. In 2016/2017 this jumps again by an additional 8 forms of entry required.

The local authority plans currently allow for an expansion of the equivalent of 3 forms of entry in Slough schools.

An equivalent number of pupils to 4 forms of entry have places in schools outside of the Borough. Reliance on this as a partial solution however, may not be sustainable as the pupil population is growing in those areas also. Data from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead illustrate that their primary school population is on the increase and that they will be adding an equivalent of 5 forms of entry to their capacity in 2014.

Even when the use of other Borough school places and the increase in local school class numbers planned is taken into consideration it is clear that the numbers of pupil places that will be needed is well in excess of capacity from 2014 onwards.

Vision and Ethos

“Active citizens – future leaders”

Our vision for The SASH Schools is that they will be forward thinking outstanding schools, inspiring learning. They will develop confident young people, who will excel in their educational, personal and social development, achieving more than they believed possible.

The Schools will be known for their ability to develop the entrepreneurial skills of their pupils. There will be a clear emphasis on creativity, innovation and leadership. The curriculum will encourage problem solving, critical reflection, research and challenge and the development of analytic skills fostering the business men and women of the future.

We want all of our pupils to be “active citizens”. All pupils will be encouraged and given the confidence to participate in decision making, providing support and/or creative input across the three areas of family well being, public service and generating wealth. Through this we will develop self confident and responsible pupils who contribute to the local community of Slough and are well placed to become future leaders.

An expectation that lifelong learning not only underpins success in adult life but that it will be a necessity in order to actively participate in the future economic world will underpin the culture and curriculum of the schools. Our goal is that adult education will be integrated into the day-to-day activity of the school through a virtual college and with a number of facilities providing dual use. The Schools will create additional educational opportunities for parents and the local community by providing classes after the end of the usual school day and on a Saturday.

Our Schools will be a first choice local school for families in the neighbourhood providing world class teaching and learning opportunities that ensure the achievement and success of the pupils enabling them to move on with confidence into work, further training or education.

Parents and families will be closely involved in the schools. The school will feel as if it is *their* school – a welcoming and supportive place to be. Positive relationships will be enhanced in a number of ways including by early communication with prospective parents whilst their children are in primary school, involvement in social and educational opportunities, parent information evenings, a parent communication group and through representation on the governing body.

The Schools will provide an inclusive learning environment where all learners are welcome and able to succeed. Learning pathways will be tailored to suit the interests and aptitudes of individual pupils. A personalised approach to planning the curriculum will ensure that teaching and learning is differentiated in a way that maximises each pupil's attainment and achievement. We will work closely with local business to ensure that the curriculum provided will enable pupils to gain the skills and expertise required by local employers. Opportunities for apprenticeships and work based learning will help our pupils to be successful in getting work in Slough and beyond.

We recognise the need for all learners to have the skills to be able to adapt to and use fast changing global technologies that will be relevant to their future employment. In The SASH Schools, therefore, the ICT curriculum will include the opportunity to learn the computing skills required in order to develop new technologies as well as expertise in information literacy and the use of state-of- the-art technologies as tools for learning. We will explore the opportunity provided by the high number of ICT companies based in Slough to develop a specific and relevant computing course for which one of them would provide the accreditation.

We would explore the opportunity to become an International Thinking School, accredited by the University of Exeter, highlighting the importance we attach to enabling our pupils and staff to understand and engage in effective thinking and learning that will support both their success in learning and teaching and ability to adapt to changing educational or workplace requirements.

The vision for our school is underpinned by our core values listed below.

Core values

- The Schools will be a stimulating and inspiring learning environment. It will be welcoming to all learners providing a very clear message that it is a place of learning

where excellence can be achieved.

- All learners will be motivated, engaged and enjoy learning. This will promote optimum attendance and positive relationships amongst school pupils and staff. They will develop as independent learners, through a programme of personalised learning, focused on individual needs, interests and ambitions.
- The curriculum will be challenging and diverse; inspiring creativity, innovation and leadership. It will provide opportunities for academic, vocational and practical pathways as appropriate for individual interests and aptitudes.
- The Schools will have the highest expectations of all staff and pupils – promoting high standards of achievement for all and minimising gaps in attainment.
- The Schools will be driven by a shared view that every individual really does matter, has views that are important and is entitled to the opportunity to succeed.
- The concepts of active citizenship, empathy, community, self responsibility, independence and leadership will be inherent in all that the Schools do.
- The Schools will be committed to inclusive education providing quality education for all learners according to their individual strengths and needs. All learners, the gifted and talented, as well as the more vulnerable that may have special educational needs or a disability will be supported to ensure that they have opportunities to succeed.
- All learners will have access to a range of experiences and qualifications to enable them to enter the world of employment or higher education and to make a positive economic and social contribution to the regeneration of the local Slough, national and international communities of the future.
- Whilst ensuring a diverse curriculum that allows learners to follow a variety of pathways, the school will take advantage of opportunities presented by their links with local business to support whole school improvements and to provide specialisms for learning.
- The learning environment will be flexible and adaptable enough to accommodate a variety of approaches to learning. The individual success of all learners will be fostered and supported by high quality inspirational teachers and multi- disciplinary support staff.
- The Schools and their business and educational partners are committed to minimising the impact of change from one setting to another and will work towards seamless transition across key stages and between school/college/university and work.
- Learning opportunities, facilities and services will be accessible to the wider community. The Schools will have capacity to host other activities, organisations and community events and will support the wider Slough learning partnership in the provision of extended school services and adult learning opportunities.
- The outward facing nature of the Schools will recognise the contribution the school can make to future generations of the community and how it can support and influence local regeneration in terms of, environment, economy, social relationships and high quality citizenship and active involvement.