

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	06 March 2015
Subject:	Stamford Endowed Schools Scholarship Tapering - Interim (8th Year) Review

Summary:

In 2006, Executive decided to taper the number of Lincolnshire County Council Scholarships to the Stamford Endowed Schools so that from 2012, there would be no new scholarships. It was also confirmed that there would continue to be four-yearly reviews of the educational provision for secondary school pupils in the Stamford area so that the decision could be revisited if necessary. This report is being presented in March 2015 to take account of the 2014 results which were published at the end of January.

The principal objective of the review is to ascertain the extent to which suitable education is provided for academically able students in the Stamford area as the number of Lincolnshire County Council Scholarships to the Stamford Endowed Schools is reduced.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to receive the report as requested in 2006 and make comment.

1. Background

1.1 On 04 July 2006, a report was presented to the Executive of Lincolnshire County Council entitled "Review of Stamford Endowed Schools Scheme". The report presented a number of recommendations. Executive resolved to adopt certain ones of these immediately and requested that further options be presented at a subsequent meeting. These were presented at its meeting of 18 July 2006. Subsequently it was resolved that "the decision of the Executive of 18 July in connection with "Review of Stamford Endowed Schools Scheme" (Decision Reference 00939) be upheld". The components of the decisions taken in 2006 that are pertinent to this Report are:

- (1) the proposal for assessing schools on a four yearly basis as set out in paragraph 6 of the Report be approved;

(2) negotiations be conducted with Stamford Endowed Schools for an annual reduction in the number of scholarship places from 2008/09 leading to the ending of the scheme in 2012/13 when no further places would be available with children in receipt of scholarship funding continuing to receive support until the end of their education at Stamford;

(3) To terminate the Stamford Endowed Schools scholarship scheme by

(a) terminating the existing contract which has 50 scholarship places per year by giving notice to Stamford Endowed Schools by 31 August 2006 (the last intake under that contract to be in September 2007);

(b) negotiating by 31 December 2006 a tapering contract for the period covering intakes from September 2008 to September 2011;

1.2 The interim report that appears as Appendix A has been commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council as the second four-yearly assessment of educational provision for able young people of secondary school age in the Stamford area, focusing particularly on the impact of the decision to taper the number of new scholarships that are funded by Lincolnshire County Council and on the broader objectives of the 2006 Report. The most recent performance data used to inform the report is based on the 2014 results that were only released to the public in validated form on 29 January 2015.

2. Conclusion

It is recommended that the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee:

- 1) notes that the Cambridge Meridian Academies Trust and Casterton Business and Enterprise College are now the principal providers of state funded secondary education to the Stamford community.
- 2) confirms that it is satisfied that it considers that the Stamford community has access to appropriate* secondary education in accordance with Lincolnshire County Council's duties under the Education Act, 1996.

*** "Appropriate education" is defined in terms of a requirement ensuring that parents have access to a variety of education with a view of the pupils' different ages, abilities and aptitudes.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Stamford Endowed Schools Scholarship Tapering- Interim (8 th Year) Review- Full Report
Appendix B	Schools in the Cambridge Meridian Academy Trust (CMAT)

5. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Review of the Stamford Endowed Schools Scheme- A Report to Executive, 04 July 2006	For a copy of any of these documents please contact Democratic Services on (01522) 552104 or email Democratic Services at DemocraticServices@lincolnshire.gov.uk
Executive Decision Reference 00939 – Review of the Stamford Endowed Schools Scheme- 04 July 2006	
Executive Decision Reference 00939 – Review of the Stamford Endowed Schools Scheme- 18 July 2006	
Minutes of the Scrutiny and Management Committee – July 2006	
Stamford Endowed Schools Scholarship Tapering- Interim (4 th Year) Review- A Report to Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee- 13 May 2011	http://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1
Stamford Welland Academy website	http://www.stamfordwellandacademy.org/

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Appendix A Stamford Endowed Schools Scholarship Tapering - Interim (8th Year) Review - Full Report

1. Background

- 1.1. The town of Stamford is located in the South-West corner of Lincolnshire within the district of South Kesteven. Lincolnshire operates a selective system of education at age eleven-plus in most parts of South Kesteven. However, Stamford does not have a local authority maintained grammar school within the town. Rather, grammar school education has for a number of years been commissioned from the independent sector. The Stamford Endowed Schools comprise three schools for pupils aged two to eighteen. Until 2006, Lincolnshire County Council commissioned twenty-five places per year for able boys at Stamford School and twenty-five places per year for able girls at Stamford High School. Access to these funded places has been through a system of selection tests that parallel, but do not replicate, the Lincolnshire eleven-plus process and are administered by the Stamford Endowed Schools Foundation. Access to a scholarship was not means-tested.
- 1.2. Acting on legal, financial and educational advice, on 18 July 2006 the Executive of Lincolnshire County Council resolved to taper-off the number of scholarships available over a number of years so that there would be no new scholarships by September 2012. The last cohort of County Council scholars will leave the endowed schools in 2018.
- 1.3. This decision was partly based on a report about the arrangements that was considered by the Executive of the County Council at the same time. This report recommended a four-yearly review of the provision for the able young people of Stamford following any tapering. This is the second of those reviews.

2. Desktop Data Analysis

- 2.1. The following desktop analysis was conducted to help judge whether the tapered cessation of the county council-funded scholarship scheme has had impact on the outcomes for young people at age 16 and whether state-funded secondary education in the town was meeting the needs of its pupils. It is based on pupils completing Year 11 in 2012, 2013 and 2014 (three-year totals and three-year averages).
- 2.2. 281 pupils progressed from state-funded primary schools (local authority maintained schools and academies) in the Stamford area into state-funded secondary schools at the end of Year 6.
- 2.3. 88 pupils progressed from state-funded primary schools (local authority maintained schools and academies) in the Stamford area into the Stamford Endowed Schools at the end of Year 6.

Table 1: Movement of pupils from primary school to secondary school for Year 11 completers 2012-14

Primary School Attended	Secondary School Attended							
	Bourne Academy*	Bourne Grammar	Charles Read	Deepings	Other Lincs	Stamford Queen Eleanor **	St Georges Academy	Stamford Endowed
Bluecoat	1				7	59	1	
Bythams	3	3	4		5			7
Malcolm Sargent	3	3		1	1	36		38
Other Lincs	6					54		11
St Augustine's	6	10		2	1	16		11
St Gilbert's	1	7		2	4	45		21

* *Previously Bourne Robert Manning*

** *Now Stamford Welland Academy but not within the three year period under analysis*

2.4. The Key Stage 2 Average Points Score (KS2 APS) is a measure of the attainment of pupils at the end of their primary education and at the start of their secondary education.

2.5. For pupils from Lincolnshire maintained primary schools completing Key Stage 4 between 2012 and 2014, the Key Stage 2 Average Point Score on entry into secondary school was:

- 26.33 for those who progressed into state funded secondary schools and
- 32.28 for those who progressed to the Stamford Endowed Schools

2.6. Pupils attending Stamford Endowed Schools from state funded primary schools had significantly greater attainment on entry than those attending state-funded schools in Stamford and the surrounding area.

2.7. Unsurprisingly, therefore, the Key Stage 4 Average Point Score (KS4 APS) of the cohort from state-funded primary schools completing Year 11 at the Stamford Endowed Schools was significantly higher than for those completing elsewhere, viz:

- 381.95 for those who progressed into state funded secondary schools and
- 545.08 for those who progressed to the Stamford Endowed Schools.

2.8. Pupils resident in Stamford continue to have two distinct schools to choose from within the Stamford area at age 11, and several more beyond.

- 2.9. In the past three years 221 pupils have transferred from Stamford state-funded primary schools to Casterton Business and Enterprise College but only 137 to Stamford Queen Eleanor at the end of Year 6.
- 2.10. At the time of writing, 65 pupils with a Stamford address are likely to be offered a place at Casterton Business and Enterprise College. Over the last three years admissions from Stamford primaries have varied between 59 in 2013 and 81 in 2012 and 2014. Casterton Business and Enterprise College relies on around 50% of its pupils coming from out of county.
- 2.11. Achievement data for the Stamford primary school pupils that transferred to Casterton Business and Enterprise College are not available to us.
- 2.12. In comparison, 73 pupils have been offered a place at Stamford Welland academy (previously Stamford Queen Eleanor) for September 2015. This is significantly greater than in any of the preceding three years in which the number admitted to Stamford Queen Eleanor from Stamford primaries has typically been between 30 and 55.
- 2.13. Despite its best efforts to attract more able pupils, it appears that the cohorts entering Stamford Queen Eleanor School were, at best, static in terms of their prior attainment on entry. For the cohort that left Year 11 in 2012, almost 88% had achieved Level 4 in English by the time they left primary school. By 2014 it was less than 83% and it had fallen as low as 75% in 2013. The picture in mathematics was similar with 85% of 2012 Year 11 leavers achieving this standard in primary school but fewer than 76% in 2014.
- 2.14. Against this backcloth, Stamford Queen Eleanor School raised attainment from 44.6% of pupils achieving at least 5 GCSEs at grade C or above including English and Mathematics in 2012 to 62.0% in 2013. Unfortunately, the percentage fell to 39.4% in 2014. However, it should be noted that there was a very significant drop in GCSE outcomes nationally in 2014 as a result of a raft of reforms to the examination system.
- (These data relate to pupils progressing from Lincolnshire primary schools).
- 2.15. Between 2012 and 2014, 6.67% achieved 5 or more A*-A grades at GCSE.
- 2.16. From 2012 to 2014, all Year 11 pupils from Lincolnshire state-funded primary schools who attended the Stamford Endowed Schools achieved 5 or more A*-C grade GCSEs including English and Maths. Almost 83% achieved 5 or more A*-A grades at GCSE.

- 2.17. On average, between 2012 and 2014, 75% of pupils from Lincolnshire state-funded primary schools who attended Stamford Queen Eleanor School made “expected progress” in English. More than 98% of pupils from Lincolnshire state-funded primary schools who attended the Stamford Endowed Schools made expected progress in English. Data for pupils attending Casterton Business and Enterprise College is not available to us.
- 2.18. On average, between 2012 and 2014, 57% of pupils from Lincolnshire state-funded primary schools who attended Stamford Queen Eleanor School made “expected progress” in Mathematics. More than 95% of pupils from Lincolnshire state-funded primary schools who attended the Stamford Endowed Schools made expected progress in Mathematics. Data for pupils attending Casterton Business and Enterprise College is not available to us.

(Key Stage 4 data relate to pupils progressing from Lincolnshire primary schools).

3. Conclusions from data analysis

- 3.1. Since the previous report, the cohorts of pupils completing compulsory education at Stamford Queen Eleanor School continued with a disproportionately low proportion of able students. Indeed, there is some evidence that the situation was worsening.
- 3.2. There are encouraging signs of an upturn in potential admissions to Stamford Welland Academy, that is the successor to Queen Eleanor School, in September 2015 (73 first preferences currently declared compared with 30 admitted in September 2014).
- 3.3. Although there were significant gains, particularly in 2013, there is little evidence of a significant and sustained improvement in attainment at the end of Year 11. However, the 2014 results are a poor guide given the plethora of changes that have impacted negatively on results nationally.
- 3.4. One would expect pupils selected to attend the Stamford endowed schools to leave with significantly higher attainment than those that attended Stamford Queen Eleanor School because they were selected by ability. This expectation is clearly evidenced in attainment data.
- 3.5. One might, however, expect pupils to make similar progress from their starting points regardless of the school which they attend. Nevertheless it appears that progress was greater at the Stamford Endowed Schools than in Stamford’s state-funded school: Queen Eleanor.

4. Changes since the previous report

- 4.1. In January 2014 an application was made for the establishment of a Free School academy in Stamford. The Cambridge Meridian Academies Trust (CMAT) was selected by the Stamford Free School Proposer Group as their education provider. The proposed Free School would have provided an alternative venue for secondary education in the town.
- 4.2. Rather than agreeing to the establishment of a new Free School, in June 2014 the Department for Education announced that CMAT had agreed to take over the running of Stamford Queen Eleanor School. CMAT runs another four academies outside Lincolnshire and a fifth is being planned.
- 4.3. A list of the CMAT schools besides Stamford Welland Academy is shown in Appendix B together with very basic performance information that does not take account of the schools' contexts.
- 4.4. The following is taken from the Stamford Welland Academy website and explains the ambitions of the proposer group:

"A group of Stamford parents decided to campaign on the basis that there were limited options in the Stamford area providing a high-quality education from 11–19. They refused to accept the fact that hundreds of pupils had to travel long distances in order to access the quality of education they deserve and are entitled to. The resulting costs and disruption incurred by this unnecessary travel has a detrimental effect not only on the families involved, but also on the community within Stamford and many of the surrounding villages.

After exploring options available and many meetings with local authorities, education trusts, schools and other interested parties the parents formed a Free School Proposer Group and campaigned for Stamford Free School – a new truly comprehensive secondary school for the town. The parents were soon joined by education and legal professionals that strengthened the group with the necessary experience and skills to develop their vision for the Free School.

The vision was based on the belief that Stamford needed a high-quality secondary school committed to the achievement of every member of the town's growing population of young people. The School would inspire students to realise their full potential and achieve the best possible academic outcomes through outstanding educational achievements which instil a love of learning. The curriculum would be focused on core subjects to give students a depth of understanding and knowledge, and which would act as a springboard for students to access university where they choose to do so.

The school would be outstanding in terms of teaching, leadership and governance. As well as the academic mission, the school would be a disciplined and caring environment, encouraging students of all backgrounds and abilities to flourish. This would begin through strong links with local primary schools, and a geographical location which enables students to remain in their established peer groups and their own town for secondary education. The school would encourage all students to contribute to the wider community, and inspire them to become engaged, healthy and responsible citizens. The school would draw on the town's rich and vibrant cultural heritage to create a unique learning environment to inspire young people and help to strengthen and engender a sense of pride in the community and wider society.

The Stamford Free School Proposer Group chose CMAT (Cambridge Meridian Academies Trust) to be their educational provider to support them in making the bid, based on their excellent track record in delivery outstanding schools."

5. Looking forward

5.1. The Stamford Welland Academy plans to implement the curriculum proposed for the Stamford Free School. The proposals can be found on the Stamford Welland Academy website.

5.2. Significantly there is a commitment to:

- Achievement for all
- Valuing people
- A high quality learning environment
- The pursuit of excellence, and
- Extending the boundaries of learning

5.3. The ambition is to "drive up standards further by introducing an academic curriculum founded on breadth and rigour". The original proposal stated that:

"The Free School will be completely comprehensive in intake. Whilst there is a definite theme in our vision of the highest academic standards and a very academic curriculum, we believe we can cater for all abilities and provide the necessary support to ensure that all students reach their potential"

5.4. The decision by the Department for Education to offer CMAT the opportunity to run Stamford Queen Eleanor with a wholly new approach and philosophy was taken close to the end of the summer term of 2014, in preference to agreeing the Free School proposition. This gave CMAT

very little time to implement fully all of its plans from the outset. However the headteacher, Mr Anthony Partington, is hopeful of a more complete implementation of the original vision by September 2015 for the new intake, whilst providing as much of this entitlement as possible for all other year groups. Mr Partington has been invited to present an outline of the vision for the Stamford Welland Academy at the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee meeting on 06 March 2015.

5.5. Casterton Business and Enterprise College and Stamford Welland Academy provide choice in secondary education for the residents of Stamford and there are adequate opportunities for parental choice.

5.6. State-funded secondary education in Stamford is potentially of a significantly different character in the future than it has been in the past.

6. Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee :

- 1) notes that the Cambridge Meridian Academies Trust and Casterton Business and Enterprise College are now the principal providers of state funded secondary education to the Stamford community.
- 2) confirms that it is satisfied that it considers that the Stamford community has access to appropriate*** secondary education in accordance with Lincolnshire County Council's duties under the Education Act, 1996.

**** "Appropriate education" is defined in terms of a requirement ensuring that parents have access to a variety of education with a view of the pupils' different ages, abilities and aptitudes.*

Appendix B Schools in the Cambridge Meridian Academy Trust (CMAT)

School		Age Range	Joined CMAT	Ofsted	Percentage achieving 5A*-C GCSE including English & Maths			Percentage making expected progress in 2014	
					2012	2013	2014	English	Maths
Swavesey Village College	Cambridgeshire	11-16	Founding member-2011	Outstanding in 2011 prior to conversion	84%	80%	53%	76%	56%
Nene Park Academy	Peterborough	11-19	Sept 2011	Good-Nov 2013	49%	58%	41%	79%	50%
North Cambridge Academy	Cambridge	11-16	Sept 2013	No Ofsted report yet	No data before 2014		40%	67%	40%
ENGLAND- STATE FUNDED SCHOOLS					62.1%	61.8%	54.8%	66.5%	66.0%
West Town Primary Academy	Peterborough	4-11	June 2014						

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