

The Skinners' Kent Academy expansion update: October 2020

In response to a request from Kent County Council, The Skinners' Company, with support from Kent County Council and the Skinners' Kent Academy Local Governing Body, proposed to permanently expand The Skinners' Kent Academy by two Forms of Entry (FE), increasing the PAN from 180 to 240 places in September 2022 to meet the need for additional Year 7 places in Tunbridge Wells in non-selective schools, identified by the County Council.

In May a consultation on the proposal was held to assess stakeholder views on the principle of the Academy's expansion. Overall the responses received from this consultation demonstrated support for the Academy's expansion to meet the needs and aspirations of parents and the local community.

However Kent County Council has recently made the Academy aware that whilst there is a continued need for additional secondary school places until 2023, this additional capacity will now not be required on a permanent basis for Year 7 cohorts from 2024 and therefore they have made the decision to not pursue the expansion at The Skinners' Kent Academy. This forecast is based on the number of births in Tunbridge Wells whilst also considering factors such as travel to school patterns, inward migration and house building, with these factors no longer deemed as having the impact they originally anticipated.

Whilst this is disappointing for the Academy and local community, we will continue to ensure that we provide high quality education to all current and future students; in a wonderful setting where each young person is cared for and given every chance to succeed.