



The Rowans AP Academy
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Kindness

Commitment

Resilience

10th June 2021

**Consultation of proposal to make a significant change to The Rowans AP
Proposal – to change the age range of the Rowans to include all Primary phase pupil ages**

The purpose of this statement is to issue a proposal that the Rowans AP Academy changes its age range temporarily for two years to enable support for primary age pupils whilst work continues to deliver The Beeches AP Free School.

The Inspiring Change Board of Members and Trustees is committed to undertaking a full consultation with the local community, the school community, as well as other stakeholders and welcomes responses from all groups. There has already been substantial consultation and communication with all stakeholders.

The Rowans Alternative Provision Academy is part of the Inspiring Change Trust. The Trust was successful in bidding for the Beeches AP Free School in 2017 and due to unforeseen delays, the school is now set to open in June 2023. Medway Primary Schools have been without Primary behaviour support and have been rightfully seeking this additional support. Medway's Director for People and Assistant Director for Education and SEND understand the increasing need (especially in light of the recent pandemic) and have secured financial support from the high needs budget with Council Members agreement to partially fund a behaviour support service. This includes outreach support to schools and where needed, off site, very short term, educational provision for a small number of primary age pupils.

To enable the provision of support for primary schools, pupils and families, until The Beeches come onstream, the trust is proposing to lower the age range of The Rowans from 11-16 to 5-16 effective from 1st September 2021. Discussions and consultations to extend the age range at The Rowans started in January 2021 with The Medway's Director for People, Local Authority Council officers and Members, the Lead member and portfolio holder for Children's Services, The Medway Executive Leaders Association (MELA - Primary Headteacher consortium), Medway Secondary Headteachers association (MSHA).

The proposed changes will not affect the current Rowans AP Provision and have no admissions implications. There are no risks with relation to leadership or governance as the current leadership structure has capacity to lead and manage this service.

Kind regards

Caron Johnson

Caron Johnson
Executive Headteacher

The Inspiring Change Multi-Academy Trust
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