

CABINET - 12 JANUARY 2010

TRANSFORMING LEARNING IN THE LOUGHBOROUGH, QUORN AND
BARROW UPON SOAR AREAS: PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTATION

THE
GARENDON HIGH SCHOOL

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For the attention of Leicestershire County Council Cabinet,
12th January 2010

**Garendon's initial reaction to the Building Schools for the Future
proposals.
(Our thoughts prior to the Cabinet Meeting and the next round of
Consultation).**

We consider that there have to be adjustments to the BSF A & B proposals but these need early consideration.

We are all much disturbed by the proposal to demolish Garendon High School, a school which provides outstanding education and has results which place us in the top 2% of all Maintained Secondary Schools in the country.

We are not against CHANGE because it is necessary and perhaps overdue. It is the structure of the change which is completely alien to our thinking. Garendon's outstanding features must not be lost, but should be extended to provide a firm foundation by extending our remit to be an 11-16 or 11-18 school.

Our staff (which would need to be increased) are fully qualified to undertake delivery of 11-16 or 11-18 education. As with the majority of parents, we consider that the extension of Garendon to become a through school (as in the Melton High Schools), is the optimum choice. A new institution of at least 1200 students, as outlined in BSF plans A & B, could see the successes achieved at Garendon lost or diluted.

The three Loughborough High Schools which currently provide top quality 11-14 education and achieve high KS3 results, all need to continue to provide that firm footing and to offer uninterrupted education to the age of 16 or 18.

We are confident in our ability to provide a high quality education for all secondary age students. Our L.A. SIP (School Improvement Partner) has this academic year designated the school 'outstanding' in every area and Lead School in the county.

In the current plans Competition would have to occur for the new institution on our campus. This requires open tender for who should run the new school. We have no idea who would bid to run the school. This is unnecessary. Garendon High School could simply remain and run the new through school. We have outstanding governance, leadership and staff who are all fully capable of forming the core of a new larger school. Furthermore, we have huge parent and community support for our aspirations.

Overnight by Friday 8th January we received over 225 replies from parents, indicating overwhelming support for Garendon to be a through school. They also showed that they have full confidence in the school's ability to deliver.

Parental views on Proposals for BSF

I have a child who will be in Yr10 when the new school opens (2013); obviously it is in our best interests that his education does not suffer from the new changes proposed.

GHS should remain as a through school and be extended – new facilities to cope with changes to help the student's progress further.

If the schools were to close where would the children be placed – would you have to reapply to another school?

Garendon is a good successful school with good specialist teaching staff. Why close a school that is producing good results where pupils seem happy?

Garendon is an excellent school and has developed the best in my daughter. I would strongly support the school in becoming a through school to Yr10 and 11. The LA should focus on schools who are achieving high standards for our children rather than wasting money developing those which underachieve.

Whatever the outcome, my main priority is continuity and quality of education for my child through this transition period, which is also a very important stage in his life-long education.

It is ludicrous, a through school is a good idea but closing the school is silly.

An excellent school with excellent staff – we support your school.

My daughter has really improved in all areas at Garendon and I am sure if the opportunity was there to stay on until 16/18 it would be to her advantage.

The building is immaterial, it's what is inside that counts and there will be a lot of teachers needing to be kept on if the school is to increase Leadership, support staff, excellent teaching.

Should you require additional governors on the governing body to help you fight this or additional parents to form a specific action group, please feel free to contact us.

It would be a tremendous shame if GHS closed, especially with the recent OFSTED report about Burleigh performance. Keep Garendon and staff and recruit the same high quality of staff and teachers and level of teaching.

I would prefer two smaller schools (Garendon & Limehurst) developed rather than a new big school, building on excellence and delivering parental choice alongside Rawlins, Woodbrook Vale, De Lisle and Humphrey Perkins.

We would like to see Garendon remain as an entity as it is a very good school. We believe that the main building, however, is in a poor condition and would like to see its redevelopment maybe on the playing fields behind as has recently happened at Shephed High School.

I truly believe GHS has provided my daughter with a sound basis to continue moving forward. This is why GHS needs to remain but expanded to provide continuous education & stability.

I would like Garendon to become 11-18 years but do think that many of the buildings could do with a major renovation or rebuild. I don't mind if the buildings are demolished but do not want Garendon (i.e. the people) demolished!!

It would be a shame if the good results at Garendon were lost or diluted.

Could you explain to me why Garendon High School always plays second fiddle to Burleigh College? GHS is a much better school using traditional values which show respect for the school and the community behind it. Children are not adults until they have grown up, way beyond the age of 18.

It is nonsensical to think of closing GHS down. BSF offers a tremendous opportunity to capitalize on what GHS is already doing so well. "If it ain't broken, don't fix it" - extend it !! (we would not support either of the proposed options).

The combined Burleigh/Garendon option could only be in any way acceptable if the Garendon Leadership Team was in charge of it.

All 4 high schools should become 11-16, leaving Burleigh and Rawlins as post 16 centres. This would minimize disruption and retain the expertise the current schools have with the younger pupils.

As parents, we think that the Garendon Parent Forum, Governors and staff know what is best for the school and pupils. We will continue to give our support in whatever decision the school takes for the best interest of the students.

It would be fantastic if our daughter could continue her education to 18 at Garendon in a settled environment and with the existing high standards of teaching.

Strongly against the closure of Garendon which provides excellent education for pupils. Also against 'Super Schools' - to my mind, a school catering for 1200 pupils needs far more thought, planning and consultation prior to being 'rail-roaded' in.

The standard of teaching at Garendon is excellent and I wouldn't want it to drop due to changes.

Three generations of both sides of the family have attended and done extremely well at Garendon. Going back to when it first opened it would be an outright disaster if Garendon was shut and its identity lost forever.

I do not want Garendon to close or change, as it is serving the community very well with high results regularly.

I feel my child would continue to develop his educational abilities at Garendon in either an 11-16 or 11-18 school. I would be very disappointed if a school with such high results should be demolished for a so called super school. I would love my son to be taught at Garendon until he is 18 rather than have to go to Burleigh which in my opinion should close. GHS should not be demolished for a super NOT school.

Garendon is a successful school, why close a school producing good results??

Garendon is an excellent school; we support you all the way.

Having recently heard that Burleigh failed its Ofsted inspection, I am particularly worried about my son continuing his education at Burleigh. I would much rather him have his education at Garendon as this school has consistently received excellent reports. I don't feel Burleigh is in a position to provide my gifted son with the education he deserves.

Why should GHS who provide excellent education for our children have to change when Burleigh is the failing school? Surely we should build on GHS for them to continue to do this.

It would be a real shame if Garendon was to close/be demolished. We need to do the best for students today and in the future.

I fully agree that Garendon should be extended to a through school. Why close an outstanding school with fantastic management and teaching staff? Have the LA gone mad?? You certainly have my 100% backing.

I agree GHS is an excellent school. But note the proposals say both Garendon & Burleigh would close and a new school open on the site using mainly Burleigh buildings. It would appear to be an open competition to run the new school. I think you are best accepting that Garendon will close, but compete strongly to run the new school. Given your track record, you would be in a strong position to do this, perhaps retaining some staff & 6th form capacity from Burleigh.

I do not believe that GHS, a school that is placed in the top 5% nationally for performance over the last 3 years, should be closed.

Standard of teaching at Garendon are excellent and we wouldn't want them to drop due to changes.

A sensible strategy would seem to be to support the development of the successful GHS to accommodate more students for more years of study rather than unnecessarily merge it into a larger entity in combination with schools doing less well.

We send this on behalf of The Garendon Parent Forum, Governors and Staff.