

THE GARENDON HIGH SCHOOL

THORPE HILL . LOUGHBOROUGH . LEICS . LE11 4SQ

TEL 01509 828595 . FAX 01509 828597

HEADTEACHER : MRS. J. E. WALKER, B.A. (Hons.) M.Ed.



Our Ref: DW/MC/BSF.let

5th March 2010

For the attention of the County Council Cabinet 09/03/10

Response from the Governors of Garendon High School

We fully support transforming learning in Loughborough. We have had an aspiration for our school to become a through school. It is disappointing Option B does not achieve this.

We have been told that the new school on Thorpe Hill should build on the excellence at Garendon (and at Limehurst and Burleigh). In view of this, we must make critical comment about the implications of some of the comments about our school in Appendix D of the Director's report for Cabinet dated the 9th March 2010. .

Comments:

About Section 25 : It is important to say just what Ofsted said about our school, i.e. "that Garendon is a good school with many outstanding features" (not just good).

Also Section 25: "Some unpopularity". It is important to realise that approximately 25% of our intake is from outside our catchment area; that pupil intake numbers from primary schools are well down; and that a significant number of parents at primary level are sending their children to the private sector. However, this year's indicative new intake figures from your L.A. Allocations Department show an increase from 127 to 141 pupils. We all know that demography of recent years has played an important part in reducing intakes. We do not consider ourselves to be unpopular and this is the first time ever that we have had this word attributed to our school. Indeed, Ofsted (2007) said " Garendon is a popular school with a significant number of students attending from outside the catchment area".

About Section 24: "management experience".

We have also been told that the new school on Thorpe Hill will build on the "excellence" in Garendon High School, Limehurst and Burleigh. It is essential that cabinet members recognise and build on the excellent management, leadership and practice at Garendon in the future.

Indeed, what evidence has been considered to suggest that GHS "does not have the management experience" to effectively run a school with post KS4 and post 16 provision? You seem quite happy to confer on Woodbrook Vale, Rawlins and Humphrey Perkins, your trust in their ability to extend their management experience potential. Garendon status should be no different in this respect. No harm is done by quoting the responsibility put on the Melton High Schools to not only become 11-16 status but also to "between them" be responsible for post 16 provision. Garendon would certainly be able to manage this process.

Our evidence suggests otherwise, for example:

- Our results are in the top 2% nationally.
- Senior and middle leaders have transferable skills.
- In nearly every area of Finance, the local authority Auditor found that Garendon "far exceeds the standard that we measure against" or "is well above".
- A number of middle and senior leaders have KS4 and KS5 experience.
- Other examples could be quoted.

Yours sincerely

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Chair of Governors