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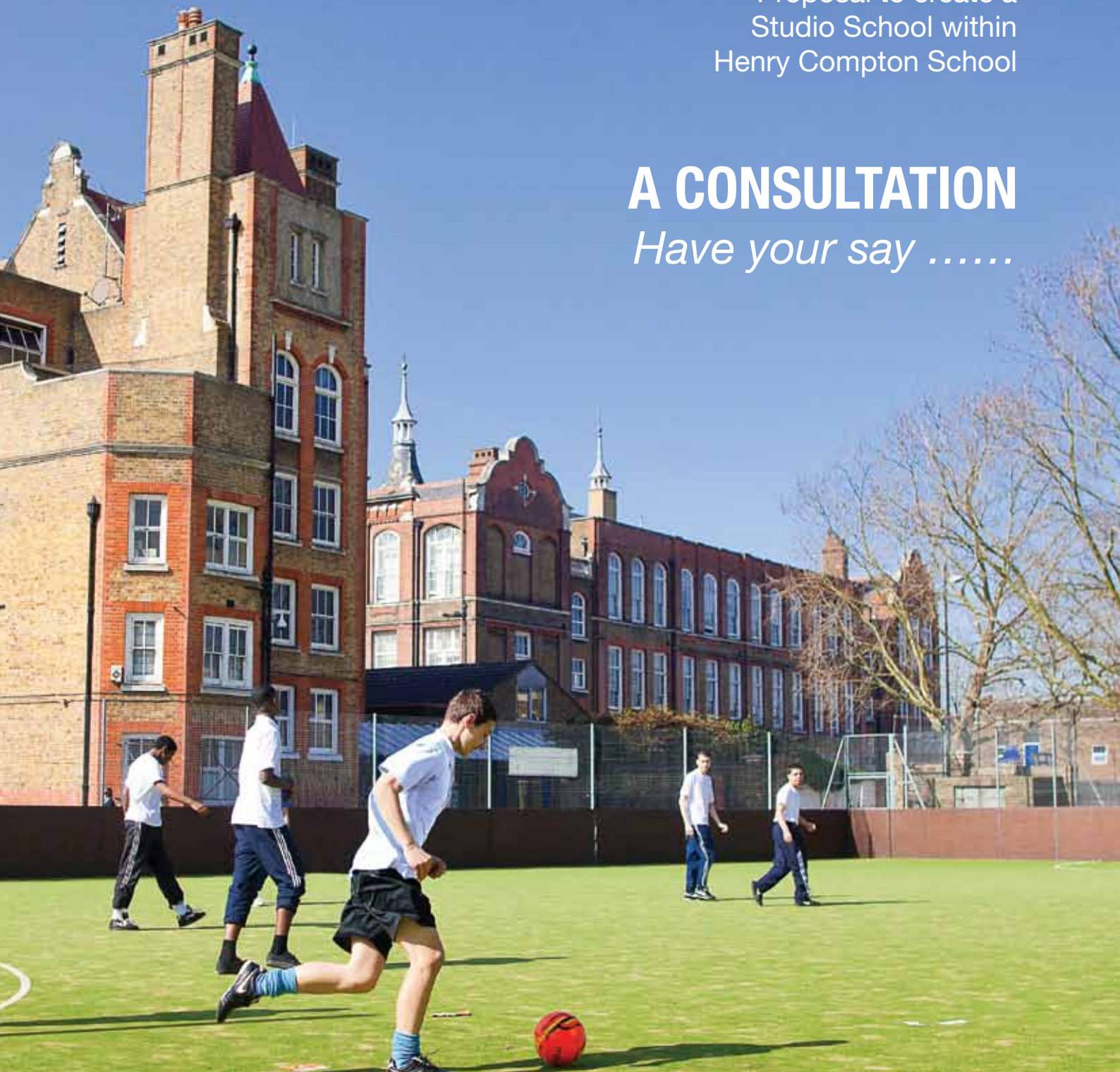


THE FULHAM EDUCATION TRUST

Proposal to create a
Studio School within
Henry Compton School

A CONSULTATION

Have your say





FOREWORD

In September 2010, the first of a new, exciting type of state school called Studio Schools opened in the UK. More will follow soon and the Governing Body of the Fulham Education Federation (Henry Compton and Fulham Cross Girls' Schools) has been working on a proposal to open one of the very first Studio Schools in London, based within Henry Compton School. This document provides more information about the proposals and the opportunity for anyone who is interested to comment on them.

Academic excellence lies at the heart of the Studio School curriculum, but the way in which pupils are taught is very different. It is 'hands on' and is based on enterprise projects and real work. The Studio School at Henry Compton would be an addition to the existing school and 'traditional' classroom based curriculum, giving pupils a choice aged 14 in the way that they continue their education. The proposal is that the Studio School should take girls as well as boys.

Opening a Studio School within Henry Compton would mean two key changes:

- Increasing the age range of pupils attending the school to 14-19.
- Allowing girls to transfer from Fulham Cross Girls' to the Studio School at age 14 if they prefer to follow a more practically based learning approach.

As these are significant changes in the make-up of the school, we are running what is called a 'statutory consultation'. Information is set out within this document to help current and future parents/ carers as well as others who are interested to understand and comment on the proposed changes. You may also like to look at the Frequently Asked Questions area on both schools' websites (www.henrycompton.net / www.fulhamcross.lbhf.sch.uk) and we will also be holding a series of open days – you can find details of these on page 6.

At Fulham Cross Girls', which has Ofsted 'outstanding' status and Henry Compton School, which Ofsted judged as 'good', we are driving success and year-on-year improvements by tailoring education to suit individual pupils' strengths and needs. As a result, Henry Compton School students achieved the best GCSE results yet in August 2011, with 50 per cent securing five or more A*-C grades including English and maths, – a 14 percentage point increase on last year, and 90% 5+ A* - C grades. We see the opening of a Studio School as an extension of this individual focus, giving an exciting new option for those young people who learn better in a 'real life' environment. It also increases parental choice, bringing a new kind of secondary school to the borough and offering benefits to the wider community.

As part of the consultation we would very much like to hear what you think about the proposals by the deadline of Sunday, 30 October 2011. We firmly believe these are very positive plans for the future of the Federation and its pupils, so please give us your support if you feel able to. Details of how you can do this are found on page 7.



Bernie Peploe.

Bernie Peploe
Executive Principal



Andy Masheter
Chair of Governors

The Proposal

The Governing Body of the Fulham Education Federation (Henry Compton Boys' and Fulham Cross Girls' Schools) is proposing to open a new type of state school called a Studio School within the main Henry Compton School in September 2012. It would be open to students aged 14-19 years and would take girls as well as boys, allowing Fulham Cross students if they prefer to follow a more practically based learning approach to transfer to the Studio School at 14.

Extending the age range of a school and changing the gender intake are what is known as 'prescribed alterations' to a school and require statutory consultation. This means that there will be a two-way exchange of information between the Federation and the public before decisions are made and it allows individuals and groups who have an interest to be a part of the decision-making process.

Introduction and Rationale

There is a drive by the current government to increase the number of pupils achieving the 'English Baccalaureate' or EBacc, which is a certificate showing that a student has achieved a range of GCSE qualifications at Grade C or above in English, maths, two sciences, geography or history and a modern or ancient language. The Federation will continue to offer this curriculum at both schools.

The government recognises that not all students do well in a very classroom-based learning environment. It has introduced a new type of state school, called a Studio School, which has academic excellence as its foundation but provides a more practical way of learning, linked to enterprise and real work. What is exciting is that a Studio School education will really equip young people for the workplace. It is excellent preparation for progression to an apprenticeship or for young entrepreneurs. A Studio School student can also go on to university, usually to one of the more technical or vocational degrees that are designed to prepare for a specific trade, job or career.

The Governing Body is proposing that the Federation opens a Studio School as part of its offering on the current Henry Compton site. This new 'school' will allow students a choice at the age of 14 to follow a practical and vocationally-related course of study or to follow the more traditional academic route. Students in the main school and the Studio School will be able to take option subjects so that they can complete the English Baccalaureate.

What is a Studio School?

A Studio School is a small school, for students aged 14-19 and is usually part of a bigger school (although they can be stand-alone). Studio Schools offer practical and vocationally-related learning alongside the traditional academic curriculum of GCSE in English, mathematics and science. All Studio Schools have sixth forms so students have more time to gain their qualifications and make better progress.

An interesting feature of Studio Schools is that they are encouraged to build their curriculum based on local employment trends and needs combined with subjects in which students show most interest. The Federation proposal is that the Studio School will specialise in Engineering and Construction and will also include opportunities linked to Performing Arts:

- Media Engineering: sound, light, set design and construction.
- Services Engineering: plumbing, electrics, maintenance.
- Construction Engineering: bricklaying, plastering, painting and decorating.

Why is a Studio School right for Henry Compton?

Henry Compton School has a diverse intake of students, many with English as a second language and there is already a strong bias towards achieving 5 A-C GCSE via BTEC qualifications in subjects such as science, ICT, construction, performing arts or sport. Feedback from the boys via the school's rigorous self-evaluation process suggests that many prefer this kind of active, practical learning.

In GCSE results released August 2011, the school was the most improved in the borough with 50 per cent of students achieving five or more A*-C grades, including English and maths – a 14 percentage point rise on last year. This has been achieved following changes in the leadership and an intervention programme which focuses on individual pupils' strengths and needs.

Introducing the Studio School will allow an even greater focus on this practical approach. Extending the age range of the school to 19 will allow this group of pupils to benefit longer from the very tailored education at Henry Compton giving them the best chances of fulfilling their potential.

Given that the school is part of a Federation, it is only right that these opportunities should also be open to girls from Fulham Cross Girls' School who would prefer to choose a more practical-based learning approach.

What stays the same with the introduction of a Studio School?

- The main Henry Compton School will remain boys only for 11-16 year olds.
- Fulham Cross Girls' School will continue to be girls only, admitting 11-16 year olds.

What will change with the introduction of a Studio School?

The Studio School will admit Fulham Cross girls at age 14, if they opt to transfer and meet the admissions criteria.

- Both Henry Compton Boys and Fulham Cross Girls will be able to transfer to the Studio School sixth form if they meet the admissions criteria.
- The Studio School sixth form will admit students who have not attended either Federation school.
- The school will reduce the number of students it currently admits at age 11-16 to 120 per year to provide room for the Studio School.
- The sixth form will provide for 90 students per year including new joiners and those staying on at 16 from the Studio School.
- Studio Schools have longer session times and are open for most of the year.
- The Governing Body will rename the main school for September 2012, with the Studio School name reflecting this.
- The school uniform, logo and other branding will also change in September 2012 in line with the new name and Studio School opening.

How will the proposal for a Studio School affect the students?

For those students who opt to go this route, the Studio School will give more choice about the kind of subjects they are able to study and an opportunity to learn in a different way which will motivate and encourage them to do well. Also based on academic excellence, the learning in a Studio School is much more hands-on and related to real life and we know that many students learn better this way. It is anticipated that many students in the Studio School will be able to develop entrepreneurial skills that lead them to be highly successful in business.

How will the proposal affect Parents and the Wider Community?

The Governing Body of the Fulham Education Federation schools widely consulted with parents in 2007 as part of its planning for the future and said they want:

- Single sex provision, particularly for girls.
- Sixth form continuity.
- A broad and balanced curriculum that includes opportunities to develop life skills and for vocational learning.

This proposal addresses these needs:

- Fulham Cross Girls' School will remain single sex throughout, while girls seeking a broader and more practical curriculum will have the opportunity to transfer to the Studio School at 14.
- Henry Compton will continue to offer boys only classes throughout the main school.
- Students from both schools will have the opportunity to transfer to the sixth form at the studio school if they meet the admissions criteria, giving much needed continuity.
- The Studio School, which will be mixed from age 14-19, will give a new breadth of curriculum and greater opportunities to develop life skills and for vocational learning.
- Importantly, the opening of a Studio School in the borough introduces a wider choice of schools for all young people aged 14-19 with an exciting and innovative model for learning.

What do the staff think about the proposal?

Early consultation has already taken place with staff and they fully support the proposal, recognising that the Studio School will provide new opportunities, which build on the students' and the school's strengths.

How will the proposal be resourced?

The Governing Body has made a bid for funding from the Department for Education to refurbish/ remodel part of the school for the proposed Studio Schools to provide state-of-the-art facilities. It may also be possible to secure further funding.

What are the next steps?

This consultation is open until Sunday, 30 October and details on how you can comment are found below. At the same time, the Governing Body of the Fulham Education Federation has submitted its applications for a Studio School and funding to the Department of Education and should know the outcome by the end of October 2011.

If the applications are successful and if the outcome of this consultation is favourable, the Governing Body will need to publish a further consultation in the form of a Statutory Proposal and Statutory Notice to extend the age range of the school and to change the school's gender intake from age 14. This proposal will provide more detailed information about pupil numbers and admissions criteria and will run until the end of December 2011.

The final decision on whether a Studio School can open will be made in March 2012, for admissions from September 2012.

Timetable overview

- 19th September 2011 Consultation is launched
- 4th October Fulham Cross Public Meeting
- 6th October Henry Compton Public Meeting
- 30th October 2011 consultation closes
- Mid November 2011 Governing Body decides whether to proceed to a Statutory Proposal and publishes the outcomes of the initial consultation
- Late November 2011 second consultation begins
- Late December 2011 second consultation closes
- Mid January Governing Body decision, to extend the age range of the school and to admit girls from 14; final decision is made by the Local Authority
- Mid March 2012 latest date for Local Authority to decide proposal
- Sept 2012, if proceeding Studio School will open

How to respond

If you have any comments or questions about this proposal please let us know not later than 30th October 2011. There will be opportunities to attend meetings to discuss these proposals (see below) and you can make your views known in writing, in person or online by:

- Returning the reply-paid response card on the back cover of this booklet;
- Responding via either school website [www.fulhamcross.lbhf.sch.uk / www.henrycompton.net]
- Attending one of the public meetings:
 - o Fulham Cross Girls' School – Tuesday 4th October from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the school (Munster Road, London SW6 6BP)
 - o Henry Compton School –Thursday 6th October from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the school (Kingwood Road, London SW6 6SN)
- By e-mail to: admin@henrycompton.lbhf.sch.uk
- By letter to either school or the Local Authority using the same reply paid address as shown on the response card.

If you wish to make a more detailed response please let us know online, at one of the consultation meetings or by writing as, set out above.

RESPONSE CARD *Thank you for your interest*

Name (optional): _____ Address (optional): _____

Postcode: _____

I am a: (tick all boxes that apply)

Pupil/Student Parent Teacher/Staff Member Governor

Other (please specify) _____

Associated with: Fulham Cross Girls' Henry Compton Local Community

Other (please specify) _____

Do you agree that provision should be extended at Henry Compton School to include a Studio School and that the Studio School should provide for students aged 14-19?

Definitely agree Tend to agree Tend to disagree Definitely disagree

Comments: _____

Do you agree with the proposed timescale?

Definitely agree Tend to agree Tend to disagree Definitely disagree

Comments: _____

Do you agree that the Studio School should admit girls from Fulham Cross Girls' school at 14 if they prefer to follow a more practically based learning approach?

Definitely agree Tend to agree Tend to disagree Definitely disagree

Comments: _____

Do you agree that Henry Compton School should ensure that students have an entitlement to study for the English Baccalaureate, if they want to?

Definitely agree Tend to agree Tend to disagree Definitely disagree

Comments: _____

Do you agree that the School should reduce its published admissions number to make room for the Studio School?

Definitely agree Tend to agree Tend to disagree Definitely disagree

Comments: _____

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