



Osborne School

Athelstan Road Winchester Hampshire SO23 7GA

Tel: 01962 854537 Fax: 01962 849419

email: admin@osborne.hants.sch.uk

Headteacher: Sonia White (O'Donnell)

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Dear Parents and Carers

Expansion of Osborne School

As some of you are aware, since September, small groups of KS4 pupils have been visiting Kings' School. The link was established as we are aware that many of our higher-attaining pupils find the transition to mainstream college at post-16 quite scary. The pupils have been joining Year 10 and 11 pupils at Kings for PSHE and it has gone exceptionally well. This has resulted in Kings' agreeing to take this idea a bit further.

From September we are proposing to re-locate a small class of Year 10 and 11 pupils onto the Kings' site. They would remain Osborne pupils for most purposes – they will be taught by Osborne staff and their exam results would belong to Osborne. However, socially, they would aim to become Kings' pupils, wearing the uniform and mingling with Kings' pupils at lunchtime, in assemblies and during extra-curricular activities. One or two might join Kings' pupils for some lessons but this would initially be on a very limited basis. Three or four Osborne staff would be permanently based at Kings', looking after about 20 KS4 pupils.

In return Kings would be able to draw on our SEND expertise, especially with their own low attainers, both in KS4 and in Year 7. We believe that "an Osborne annex" at Kings' would be very positive for the ethos of the schools and would also enable us to increase our numbers to accommodate the ever increasing requests for places at Osborne.

Hampshire County Council are advising both schools and they will help us draw up a "Memoranda of Understanding" to crystallise specific legal issues, including ownership of buildings and rental payments for occupation costs.

The idea is that the Osborne pupils would feel that they are part of a mainstream school while still having their learning needs met by specialised staff. They would be encouraged to mingle but we would be careful to be very flexible, providing a "bespoke" experience for each pupil. The feeling of belonging would be enhanced by the uniform and by the application of Kings' rules and expectations. We will only select pupils for transfer to the Kings' site who will be able to meet these expectations and we will be writing to those parents separately with further details. We will also be holding a parent information session at Kings' for the parents concerned.

I hope that you will agree that this is a very exciting development for the school and I look forward to sharing further news with you.

Yours sincerely

Sonia White (O'Donnell)
Headteacher