



Dear Folks,

LIPA HIGH SCHOOL

Since you kindly responded to a survey we did a while ago about this idea, I'm bringing you up-to-date with what's happened and, apologies, requesting your response to another short survey

We put our second bid to start this Free School, but were turned down again. There were 90 bids that needed reducing to 30. No bid from Liverpool succeeded, because the Department for Education (DfE) had decided Liverpool didn't need another secondary school. There was a need for existing schools to up their game, so a need for quality, but not a numbers gap.

This directly contradicted Liverpool City Council, who supported our bid (we submitted signed letter from Joe Anderson, our mayor). We'd met this before with our Wave 13 bid. We remain mystified. When we began our primary school, there was, because of national demography, a national need for an additional 700,000 primary school places. It seems odd at this point, when transition to secondary schooling takes place, to imagine that 11 year olds simply vaporise.

We were offered the opportunity to comment on the (DfE) feedback we'd received ... and took it. We were *not* being offered a review of their decision, rather more guidance on a further bid we might want to make. We were, aside from the conflict over need, able to convincingly refute their three other critical points.

As the meeting ended, the DfE advised us to look into and apply for Significant Change. This is when an existing school expands its provision. So, this is what we are now doing and can happen within months. Fortunately, our primary school, now that it's full, does not occupy the whole site.

This would mean we could accommodate Year 7 and Year 8 as well. As we have increased our primary school, there is also scope for us to add further years onto our sixth form.

Although we were disheartened when our last bid didn't succeed, we haven't given up, which is why we see Significant Change as the start, not the end, of our ambition.

We can't pretend there isn't risk. At the moment the DfE don't know when the next bids for Wave 15 will open. We may fail again. On the other hand, we are taking additional steps to ensure we're learnt every lesson from our previous bids. Recently, for instance, Dr Antony Edkins joined our team. He was a former secondary headteacher, who is currently a Free School Advisor and lead inspector for

Ofsted. Antony joins us at a most opportune time as we bid for Significant Change and revise our bid for our High School.

And on the other, other hand, we could go for Significant Change to our sixth form college – extending intake so that youngsters can progress smoothly from our extended primary provision to our extended sixth form provision.

Our first priority is to find out if the parents and carers of our current Year 6s have changed their minds in the light of this alternative development. That said, our class size will increase from the current 26 for our existing primary school to 30 – in line with secondary provision. This means that there will likely be 8 additional places available for 2021 and, depending on how our primary parents and carers react, there could be more.

Some parents, with youngsters not yet at our primary school, have written to me asking if enrolment is possible when, at the moment, our expansion is not on Liverpool City Council's list of possible choices. We are familiar with this, because, when we started, we had to advise registration with us, whilst also applying for a school place (as back up) via Liverpool City Council. It is highly likely we will need to adopt this process again. We are keeping a list of those who have already contacted us and now wonder if you'd like to join that list? Hence the need for our next survey.

If you would like to find out more about our case for [Significant Change](#), then there is information on the LIPA Primary School website.

We would like to know your intentions, so please complete a short survey by **1700 on Monday 21st September**.

All the best,



Flo Clucas (Chair)
Mark Featherstone-Witty (Vice Chair)
Greg Parker (Head Teacher)