



Aspire & Achieve Together

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Executive Principal: Mr G. Bassan BA (Hons) NPQH

19th July 2018

Dear Parent

Holcombe Grammar School waiting list

The Independent Appeal Panel wrote to you on 14th June to inform you that it was unable to uphold your appeal and therefore a place could not be offered at the school. However, it also concluded that there was enough evidence to demonstrate that your son was of the required academic standard for a place at the school and advised you to contact the school to place your son on the waiting list.

I was made aware that on 26th June 2018, Kent County Council (KCC) panel wrote to you saying that Medway Council had refused your son a place on the waiting list. The KCC panel explained that "Kent County Council take the view that, if an Independent Appeal Panel has concluded that the evidence before it is sufficient to 'demonstrate that the child is of the required academic standard', but the school is unable to admit the appellant without causing prejudice (ie: is too full), the child's name might reasonably be added to the waiting list." The KCC panel went on to say: "As the decision rests with Medway Council who are the Admission Authority, they have taken a different position, which they are entitled to do. Therefore, it is with regret that your child's name will not be added to the school's waiting list. Please accept my apologies for any distress/confusion which may have been caused."

Since then, we have been in touch with Medway Council and the solicitors for the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, of which Holcombe Grammar School is part, to discuss the situation in depth as the Trust, not Medway Council, is the admission authority for the school and we understand that you are entitled to request your son is placed on the waiting list for the school. Following our formal request to Medway LA to place your son on the waiting list, we heard yesterday that they were not prepared to do so.

We have, therefore, at this point, decided to control our own waiting list instead of using Medway Council to do this. We will be asking Medway Council for a list of the current children on the waiting list in priority order. If you have requested your son to go onto the Holcombe Grammar School waiting list we will then add his name to the waiting list. If you no longer wish your son to be placed on the list, please let us know. We would then contact you again if a vacancy arises and your son is at the top of the waiting list.

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Chief Executive: Mr S. Gardner BA (Hons) NPQH MSc
Company number: 7359755



We understand this may have caused you and your son upset but we hope you can see how we have been aiming to resolve the issue to ensure that you still have an opportunity to place your son on the waiting list. We have had to wait until now for Medway's formal response to our request for your son to be placed on our waiting list, so we wanted to write to you immediately to keep you informed.

Thank you for showing such interest in the school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Bassan'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr G Bassan
Trust Director of Secondary Education