



Media release

6 December 2021

New Thanet secondary school no longer required

Plans for the new Park Crescent secondary school to be built in Margate have been dropped, following discussions between KCC and the Department for Education over the forecast of pupil numbers in the district.

The decision has been taken after secondary student numbers in Thanet dropped well below the levels predicted when the school was originally proposed in 2015.

A change in the demographics - and in particular for the first time in many years more children leaving the area than coming in to it - has resulted in a significant drop in the number of secondary students compared to the numbers that were predicted for 2023 and has prompted the decision, which was agreed by KCC and Baroness Barran, the Minister for the School System.

The number of Year 7 students in the current academic year 2021/2022 is at least 200 lower than the predictions when the competition to identify an academy trust for the school was first run in 2015.

The Howard Academy Trust, which is already responsible for six academies, had been identified to run the new school.

Following the decision to cancel the plans, a KCC spokesman said: "Kent County Council has a duty to ensure high quality education provision is available for every child and young person in Kent.

"We believed that the Park Crescent Academy would have given families in Thanet more choice and a further opportunity to attend a school provided by an academy trust with an excellent reputation.

"It is our duty to anticipate future demand for places and the new academy was intended to address that demand for secondary school places in the area, which was expected to come about as a result of additional housing.

"However, that has not materialised so a new school is no longer required.

"KCC will continue to work in close alliance with schools and academy trusts to ensure parents and children have a choice of good secondary educational provision in Thanet."

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