

18th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers, Staff, Governors and Stakeholders,

Re: Proposed Changes to Bexley Grammar School's Admissions Arrangements for Year 7

Bexley Grammar School is responding to a <u>Memorandum of Understanding</u> between the Department for Education and the Grammar School Heads Association. Both parties have a shared ambition to see more students from lower income backgrounds being admitted to selective schools.

As such, we are writing to inform you of our intention to introduce a change to our Admissions Policy for Year 7 students for September 2025 entry. The aim of this proposed change is to foster wider access to grammar education and promote social mobility. As key stakeholders, your feedback and input are crucial to this process, and we appreciate your attention to this matter.

After careful consideration and consultation with relevant stakeholders, the school is proposing to include an additional oversubscription criteria in our Admissions Policy for Year 7. Specifically, we propose to use over subscription criteria point 2 to admit up to 12 children, who are eligible for receipt of Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) funding at the time of application and who are deemed selective, in rank order of distance from the school. The intention behind this adjustment is to create a more inclusive and equitable environment, ensuring that students, regardless of their socio-economic background, have an equal opportunity to benefit from an outstanding grammar education. Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) funding is designed to support disadvantaged students and address the attainment gap that may exist between them and their peers.

We understand that the proposed change may raise questions or concerns, and we welcome your feedback during the consultation period. The formal consultation process will take place from today and inline with the <u>School Admissions</u> <u>Code</u>, will run for 6 weeks until 31st January 2024. Details of the proposed change, the rationale behind the proposed change, and the consultation process will be made available on <u>our school website</u>, alongside the current and draft Admissions Policies for Year 7. We encourage you to participate in the consultation and share any suggestions or concerns with us via email to consultation@bexleygs.co.uk, prior to 11.59pm on 31st January 2024. Your response must outline your name, address and relationship to the school in order to be considered. If you have any trouble with responding to the consultation, or require accessibility adjustments to access any of the information, please let us know and we will be happy to help.

After the close of the consultation, the admissions authority will meet to consider all responses. The outcome of the consultation will be published on the school website as soon as possible once we have reached a decision, and the final admissions arrangements will follow shortly after. If you wish to discuss anything in this letter further, please contact the school via consultation@bexleygs.co.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mr H.J. Gilmore, Headteacher, Bexley Grammar School