



19th November 2018

Dear colleagues,

We are very pleased that, like other good and outstanding schools, selective schools now have access to a government fund to allow them to expand their premises to create more places and aid social mobility. This is particularly important at a time when there are increasing numbers of pupils reaching secondary age in our area and there is such high demand from parents for selective school places. It is also an opportunity to strengthen Haberdashers' Adams and give us more new teaching space.

As you know from the changes to our Admissions Policy in 2015 which prioritised children on Pupil Premium/Free School meals, we at Adams are committed to widening access to a grammar school education to facilitate social mobility and also to making the process as fair and as open as possible. I am therefore writing to inform you of changes that we are proposing to make to our Admissions Policy.

We have applied for funding from the government to expand our provision by building a new teaching block on our existing site, and in doing so to increase our pupil admission number (PAN) from 105 to 135 by an additional 30 places in each year group (Years 7 to 11) from September 2020 onwards. This will mean that by 2025 we will have created an extra 150 places at Haberdashers' Adams – the greatest expansion of pupil numbers in the history of the school.

In order to continue our successful work in the field of social mobility it is also our intention to widen our attendance area to include Telford, and not just Newport (as it is currently). This will mean that all boys who live in the new attendance area (as well as those on Pupil Premium or Free Schools Meals) will have priority should they pass the Entrance Test. Doing this will benefit not only local boys and those from disadvantaged circumstances, but will, by widening the mix of students at the school, benefit everyone that we educate. You will see our provisional new Attendance Area on the attached map.

For us to be awarded the funding we must also demonstrate how we will undertake effective partnerships with primary schools and non-selective secondary schools to contribute to improved educational outcomes across the wider education system. Our outreach work in our current Attendance Area has already seen a significant increase in local pupils attending Adams, and we are convinced this work can be successfully accomplished further afield. To this end we will do the same for the new extended Attendance Area and will also be doing the following:

- Providing a limited number of free bus pass bursaries for those on a low income
- Providing familiarisation material for our entrance test on our website, at no charge, for everyone to access
- Creating opportunities for all primary schools in the new Attendance Area to use the facilities at Haberdashers' Adams, in the form of science labs, PE spaces, art classrooms and the grounds at Longford Hall

Quite simply, the main purpose of our proposals is not just to create more spaces for more children to attend an outstanding school such as Adams (although it does do that, and to a significant extent), but also to address the issues of social mobility in order to provide opportunities for children from more disadvantaged backgrounds. Creating a wider, but still reasonably local to the school, attendance area will also have benefits for the number able to access extra-curricular activities (because local children have fewer problems with the journey home than those tied to much longer bus journeys). Finally, it will improve provision and accommodation for the existing pupils at the school.

The new Admission Policy will therefore read as follows:

Where the number of candidates who have achieved the required standard exceeds the number of places available the following oversubscription criteria will be applied to decide which children are to be admitted:

- 1. A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. A looked after child is a child who is either in the care of a local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority as defined in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 – for example children in residential homes or foster care.***
- 2. Boys in receipt of Pupil Premium, including children of service families, on the date of their Entrance Exam.***
- 3. Boys who live within the Telford Attendance Area (see attached map)***
- 4. Rank order according to the result of the Entrance Test (assuming the applicant has reached the required academic standard)***

The policy is also now available on our website at www.adamsgs.uk/proposal2020

This is an auspicious and historic time for Adams as it is an important opportunity for our school to help educate more Telford and Wrekin boys, and, in particular, more disadvantaged children. If our application is successful we look forward to working with the Department for Education and our local authority to increase access for disadvantaged pupils across the new attendance area, and we are very excited about the future possibilities for the young people of Telford and Wrekin.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Hickey
Headmaster