

10th February 2015

Dear Parent.

## Proposed changes to admission arrangements at Ousedale School

Ousedale School is currently consulting on changes to its admission arrangements. As part of these proposals, the School is planning to prioritise 10% of places to children with musical aptitude from outside of the catchment area. This would mean up to 36 students per year. As a consequence, it is possible that from September 2018 some local children will be unable to attend Ousedale. This is without taking into consideration the proposed housing expansion in Olney and Newport Pagnell over the next few years and the increased demand that this will have on places at the School.

During the past week we have been approached by a number of parents, along with other members of the local community, who are concerned about the proposals and the apparent lack of information about the consultation. We had arranged a Public Meeting in Olney on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February and invited the School to attend to promote their point of view and answer questions. Soon after advising the School of our planned meeting we were surprised but pleased to hear that they have scheduled an "Information Event" as follows:

> Date: Tuesday 24th February 2015 **Time**: 6:00pm (lasting up to an hour)

Location: Ousedale School, Newport Pagnell Campus, The Grove, Newport Pagnell, MK16 0BJ

Despite Ousedale being an academy, parents must be consulted on the proposed changes to their admission arrangements. The event on 24th February is your opportunity to ask questions of the School's senior team and Governing Body and we would therefore encourage you to attend. The consultation closes at the end of February, so, any representations will have to be submitted soon after the event. Please note that the proposed change applies to all admissions from September 2016 onwards, not just for September 2016 as per the subject/title of the letter on the School's website. If your child(ren) may be attending Ousedale School from 2016 this is an important meeting for you.

If you're unable to attend on the 24th and/or you would like to discuss any of these issues further, please feel free to contact us using the details below.

Best wishes.

**David Hosking Councillor for Olney Ward** 

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Keith McLean

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