

Mr Kevin McDaniel
Head of Schools & Education Services
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Town Hall
St. Ives Road
Maidenhead
Berkshire, SL6 1RF

19th April 2017

Dear Kevin,

The full Governing Body met yesterday to review the contents and offer in your letter dated 3rd April 2017. After in depth discussions and analysis, the Governors voted unanimously to refuse this offer.

The original scheme in question was agreed with the RBWM over nine months ago. At no stage did the Governing Body agree to expand Lowbrook Academy and take on a loan to do so. From the outset, the school made it clear that it would only expand if the whole school could continue to meet together in the new hall. The design of this scheme, including the hall, was in conjunction with yourselves and agreed on 30th September 2016.

From this period on, we were firmly under the impression that this scheme would proceed and be fully funded by the RBWM. This view was further reinforced when the Governors met with Councillor Dudley on 8th December 2016 where he agreed that the funding shortfall was down to insufficient funding from the outset and he told the Governing Body he would, "make this happen."

Original discussions and negotiations took place twelve months ago and the scheme in question was agreed soon after. We now find ourselves beyond key milestone dates and embroiled in a negotiation process which we did not envisage or seek.

It remains the school's ambition to become a two-form entry school, however to do so we must not compromise the existing education of our pupils by taking on a substantial loan. We have an open door for future discussions and can only see this project moving forward under the following agreed principles:

1. The expansion project is fully funded by either the local authority or the EFA.
2. The school has a hall large enough for 420 pupils plus staff to meet.
3. The development of the expansion will have a joint steering group ensuring unnecessary compromises are not made.



4. The Local Authority will agree to fund a solution for thirty year 6 pupils who will need to be educated off-site for an extended period until the expansion building work is completed.

As previously mentioned, the key milestones for delivering the agreed expansion have now well and truly passed due to a turn-around in the funding agreement by the RBWM and the introduction of new negotiation on a previously agreed development scheme. The school was led to believe that the funding shortfall had been allocated in this year's budget and that it would be formalised at Cabinet last month, as stipulated in your letter dated 8th March 2017. This was not the case and therefore this is the over-riding reason we are unable to admit 60 pupils this year and formally increase our PAN permanently.

Yours sincerely,



Dominique Du Pré
on behalf of the full Governing Body

CC

The Rt Hon Theresa May
Cllr Dudley, Leader of the Council
Cllr N Airey, Lead Member for Children's Services
Alison Alexander, Managing Director
Cllr Brimacombe, Ward Member for Cox Green
Cllr McWilliams, Ward Member for Cox Green
Cllr Bullock, Ward Member for Cox Green