

17th December 2019

Dear Stakeholder,

The Grange

I am writing to you following on from my previous letter in September, where I outlined the Trusts decision to explore opportunities for the area of land owned by the School but is currently unused, known as The Grange.

As I explained previously the Grade II listed building and its associated land has been used for numerous activities over the years, but each and every identified usage has been unsuccessful and costly for the limited school resources available. The School has worked with a local commercial agent, Whybrow Chartered Surveyors & Property Consultants which has identified there would be potential external interest in purchasing of the land, which would generate much needed additional funds for the school to invest in the improvements required to the learning environment within the main school.

The Trustees have now taken the decision to formally consult with the community about plans to dispose of this unused area of land to generate additional funds to invest in a major upgrade of the Science Faculty within Harwich & Dovercourt High School. This project would need to be fully funded by the Trust with no opportunity of external funding. The Trust intends to utilise school reserves and any generated income from the sale of The Grange (plot of land marked amber on the plan below) to see the successful completion of this project.

The decision to take forward this proposal to consultation has been taken due to the continual issues faced this year by trespassers, vandalism and other unwelcomed antisocial behaviour and the lack of a viable and safe use for this area.

As students and parents will be aware, the loss of this land would have no impact to the current running of the school and no negative impact on our students. It has no soft or hard play area accessible to students and is has no direct access to the school without leaving the main school perimeter.

For the Trust to request permission from the Secretary of State for Education to dispose of this land the Trust must undertake consultation with the local community. The Consultation will run until the 7th February 2020 and we would like to hear your views on this proposal to ensure we are fully informed on any decision we make. We would encourage you to engage in this consultation by emailing consultation@hdhs.school

Please note that this consultation relates only to the land disposal and not any subsequent use of The Grange. The latter would be subject to separate consultation under any application for planning consent.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Kate Finch
Headteacher

Land Registry Plan for Harwich and Dovercourt High School

