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Jewish Secondary Schools announce further places - FAQs

Will the new capacity make it more likely that parents will get into their first preference secondary school?

Yes, increasing capacity even in just one school has a knock-on effect, easing pressure across the whole system. Though there are more children applying for places, the additional provision should aid parents in gaining a first preference place.

Which schools in the community are committing to expand?

Whilst we are confident that there is the potential to offer sufficient places within our current schools, at this stage it is not possible to confirm exactly which schools, in addition to Hasmonean, will be able to offer additional long term provision. Before this can be confirmed, approval must be granted by the local authorities and the Department of Education.

Will there be larger classes? Will this affect the standard of education?

We are very fortunate that our community's secondary schools are among the best performing schools in the country. A critical concern has therefore been to ensure that the quality of provision is not negatively impacted by any expansion.

Recently schools across the country have been looking to expand, as they find it helps ensure the school is financially stable and enables the school to offer a broader variety of options for students, especially at GCSE and A level. This will be true for our schools, as the increase in numbers will not result in increased class sizes, but should bring significant benefits and opportunities to the schools.

What is the future of Kantor King Solomon High School? Will this have a knock on effect on North West North London Schools?

Kantor King Solomon High School is currently reviewing their provision and will be publicising the outcomes shortly.

Under the leadership of the new Headteacher, and following the excellent Ofsted, first place applications to the school have risen significantly this year. The school, whilst based in east London is very well placed geographically and academically to meet the need and offer places to all Jewish students who apply.

Kantor King Solomon remains an integral part of the Jewish community's strategic present and future plans for secondary school provision.

Are we going to be having this same discussion in five years' time? Would we not be better off with a new Secondary School now?

There are significant advantages to expanding current provision within our schools. Costs of development will be lower and the provision can be delivered much more quickly. A new school would have presented significant resourcing and staffing pressures.

As mentioned above, this expansion will also enable an enhanced provision to be offered by the existing schools. Discussions have already taken place about vocational pathways within schools, and these options will become more viable through expansion.

How are the new places going to be funded?

These proposals are dependent on funding. There are two elements to the funding of places.

1. The cost of education for each student. As state schools these places will be funded by the government. However, due to vagaries in the funding formula, the first year's costs are not covered. It is hoped that the local authorities may assist in covering this shortfall.

2. Providing additional accommodation will incur significant building costs. It is hoped that the Department of Education and Local Authorities may assist in covering some of these costs, though inevitably this project will only be able to come to fruition with the community's support.

As always, the schools will continue to look for parental support through voluntary donations.