



RESILIENCE • RESPECT • INTEGRITY • COMMUNITY

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Director of Education for Ongar & Headteacher: Mr. A. Osborne

First Deputy Headteacher: Ms. E. Ruffles

Second Deputy Headteacher: Mr. C. Abrey

5th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Admissions Process 2020

When the opening of The Ongar Academy was initially agreed, some 2-3 years before we, as a Trust, along with Mr Osborne became involved, fewer children (or possibly parents) living in the Ongar area actually wished to go to The Ongar Academy. This resulted in the places available being filled by children living further away, without whom, the school could not have opened. The knock-on effect of this is that there has obviously been an unusually high number of 'siblings' for this current cohort of (out of area) children who are in older year groups, living slightly further away. This, of course as you will appreciate, is beyond anyone's control.

Mr Osborne made it explicitly clear that this was an exceptionally popular, oversubscribed school with over 500 applications for September 2020. He also made it clear in his Open Evening speeches to not assume that you would get a place, and to ensure that due care and consideration were used when listing alternative school choices on applications. He also made it clear to ensure your form was submitted before the deadlines set by Essex County Council.

We, as a Trust, firmly hold the belief that The Ongar Academy is a school for the local community – hence our work to date with local primaries, and the naming of the feeder schools in the admissions policy. We have also previously asked the (Essex) Local Authority to expand the school to enable more children to attend it, but this, so far, has not been agreed to.

Our whole ethos is one of a community and believe us, we are both very disappointed, (I know that Mr Osborne is devastated), that there are local children unable to have a place at The Ongar Academy - this is certainly not something that we or the school have wished for. Mr Farmer will be informing the trustees of this issue as a matter of urgency. Please try to keep calm and use Mr Osborne's letter, available via our social media platforms and our school website, to decide your next steps. We truly appreciate that this is an emotional time for you. Neither Mr Osborne or the Trust chose the children, it's a Local Essex Authority process.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. M. Farmer
Chief Executive Officer
Bridge Academy Trust

Mr. A. Osborne
Director of Education for Ongar
Executive Headteacher – The Ongar Academy

