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Dear Sirs,

Re: Proposed 6th form provision to be provided by Dene Magna School.

Dene Magna has an excellent reputation and the drive to provide the very best in education and, I believe, will ensure a 6th form of the highest calibre. They are setting a clear expectation for entry requirements and proposing to offer a wide range of subjects which will cater for a wide range of talents and interests and prepare students for the next stage of their education or life choice.

This facility will provide 6th form education to the northern part of the Forest of Dean, without which students, at present, have to travel to Newent, Ross-on Wye, Monmouth or Gloucester. This disadvantages students from families where there may be low income or lack of aspiration or lack of support to help their child travel to their next place of education. These students need every possible encouragement and opportunity to reach their potential and improve their life chances- this new 6th form will provide a first class establishment in easy reach of their homes and ensure they have the same equality of access as their more advantaged peers.

The Forest of Dean is an area of concern regarding educational standards and a lot of work is going into transforming the provision in the area. To have its own 6th form in the Northern Forest will raise aspirations and expectations amongst all stakeholders and give their young people the educational opportunities that are widely available in other parts of the country.

As the Head Teacher of a feeder primary school, I support the proposal without reservation.

Yours faithfully,

Julia Dowding
Head Teacher

