



# ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

AN ACADEMY TRUST

Dear Mr Blackburn,

## Re: PS/F039a and PS/F039b

Thank you for your email dated 2/04/2015 entitled 'Bradford Core Strategy review of Homework items'. Having attended the recent Core Strategy Examination Session on Wharfedale on March 17th where we provided feedback in respect of the various CBMDC Reports submitted as part of the process, Ilkley Grammar School would like to formally raise a serious concern regarding the content of the 'Report of the Strategic Director of Children Services to the meeting of the Executive to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015'. This is specifically on the subject of 'The provision of primary and secondary school places across the Wharfe Valley', **with reference to the allocation of school places in the local area and the potential impact this will have on Ilkley Grammar School.**

The report on 'The provision of primary and secondary places across the Wharfe Valley' states that 'the upward trend on primary places is forecast to stabilise over the next two years, followed by a subsequent reduction in the total number of places required from September 2016.' **This is a calculation and statement that Ilkley Grammar School simply cannot agree with and is not borne out by the most recent actual figures provided by our six main feeder schools (see below).**

	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Burley Oaks	63	61	61	64	60	64	47
Burley & Woodhead	32	30	31	32	33	31	28
All Saints	45	46	46	49	45	45	47
Ben Rhydding	30	32	30	34	30	31	32
Ashlands	62	63	63	70	58	62	56
Addingham	30	32	28	30	24	27	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>242</b>

Although the school accepts that numbers do fluctuate slightly from year to year (as can be seen in the slight differences in the above numbers compared to the numbers submitted as PS/F039b), in addition to these numbers of students already in the system, Ilkley Grammar School also receives applications for places annually from students living within its catchment area, but who are currently not attending one of the above primary schools, and so **the above numbers represent the absolute minimum in the system currently.**

**Ilkley Grammar School is a consistently over-subscribed school, and the increase in numbers in the primary system will mean that the school will not be able to accommodate all students moving forward.** In addition, the proposed new housing in the catchment area will only further exacerbate the looming places crisis at the school, and **we**



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**cannot accept this position without a clear financial plan for increasing capacity at Ilkley Grammar School.**

Ilkley Grammar School remains gravely concerned about the impact that these growing numbers will have on what is already a challenging and cramped site, and the fact that the projections of the CBMDC regarding future numbers are so very different from those of our own, based on actual numbers already in the system.

While the school shares the opinion of the CBMDC that an *additional* school is not necessary within the area, we must request that there is additional funding set aside to enable expansion and development of the current school, so that the school's capacity can increase to be able to continue to accommodate the students in our catchment area over the coming years.

I hope in the light of the statistics above, CBMDC will reconsider its calculations and the potential impact of extra numbers on our school, and will strategically and financially support the development of the capacity of Ilkley Grammar School over the coming years. IGS can do no more than make the council fully aware of the future problems that will be caused by a lack of immediate action, and we look forward to a positive response where we can work together to ensure the future education of all students in the Wharfe Valley at their local secondary school – Ilkley Grammar School.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Williams  
Headteacher