

Proposed specialism's of Humanities and Music comments received from the new secondary school consultation

I think for such a large school to specialise will lead to difficulties in providing opportunities to excel for all the pupils (not all children will want to focus on these areas) additionally we need to provide more opportunities for science and maths as take up these subjects at a level + degree are in decline
Parents and pupils should be the key voices here
*The school should provide a comprehensive programme. Children have different aptitudes. "Academic ability" is not necessarily the same as "mechanical aptitude". Britain needs tradesmen and tradeswomen as well as "scholars".
A "specialism" should evolve from expertise in teaching and enthusiasm in learning and should not be "imposed" on all children and staff who may well have talents and interests in other areas. What is wrong with having 2 schools with excellence in certain areas?
A balanced curriculum - English, Maths, Science, Biology, IT and Arts
A language specialism (Europe, Mandarin, Russian) much more needed because 1. it would help pupils whose first language is not English 2. language skills are needed for the jobs market now and each more in the future
A school of 8 forms of entry specialising in humanities and music seems very limiting for one which will have around 2000 pupils. Lends strength to the argument of smaller community school alternative.
A school should specialise in everything especially a new school and a north Kingston school
A specialism can only be secured once the school has been operational for some time.
A wide range of subjects being taught is best
A wide ranging curriculum would surely be best.
Additional places could be provided in Richmond. This is NOT an option provided in your survey Where would the archives go?
Again what is the point of having specialist schools, presumably so you can choose them for their specialism's, when in actual fact there is no real choice, it is just down to what your local school offers.
Agree humanities but music is already very well catered for in Kingston by both Tiffin Schools, although not for non-selective students.
Agree on the importance of English; fail to see value of music as a specialism. Feel science, maths or technology are much more important
All areas of education should be on offer
All schools should have EQUAL opportunities to access ALL subjects and extracurricular activities. Promoting a healthy lifestyle through diet and exercise should be integral to the school ethos.
All specialism's should be reflected - the policy is wrong and could harm those with a focus on other subjects
All subjects on the curriculum must be provided. Humanities and music are part of this requirement so are essential but not special
Also sciences
Also sport, science and LANGUAGE
Although I am a graduate in humanities, I am not convinced in the need to specialise at this stage in a child's learning
Am not sure that a specialism is required surely it is important that all subjects are specialist and taught to the highest standard.
And Arts.
And Sport / Drama
Any form of specialism would lead to the school being selective
Are these subjects chosen because other local schools are not currently specialists in these subjects? Are specialist schools already in existence useful to other local schools?
Aren't Tiffin boys a music and art and drama?? What about the other subjects? Maths science etc, you say the schools share specialism but in reality students cannot choose their school so a scientific child will have no choice but to attend the new school if they live in N Kingston

As a North Kingston parent I would prefer meatier specialisms such as science or languages and sport.
As a professional musician of course this is extremely welcome and I feel partnerships with the many exceptional companies in London and SE should be put in motion asap (E.g. Royal Opera, ENO, major London orchestras)
As a user of Kingston's excellent music service, Having a school which gave it a focal point would be a well deserved boost
As above
As long as everyone gets a chance at a better life with a good education that is all that matters
As long as humanities are included and not just music
As long as other subjects were well taught then the specialism's could be very beneficial
As long as this balances with other specialism's in the borough, would have no objection to this
As long as this is not to the detriment of other subjects and children can excel at whatever subject suits them.
As schools are required to state a specialism and this is the gap, why not?
As there are no schools in the North Kingston area that provide such specialism's, the proposed specialism's of Humanities and Music are very positive and will add to the specialism's of current schools in the area. This will allow young people in the area to express their interests in an even wider range of subject areas, even out of school hours and hopefully provide facilities that can be used by the whole community.
Assuming that this does not impact the core curriculum of a good grounding in English, maths and sciences. If there would be an impact on these basics then my answer would have to change to Strongly Disagree. Again, a question best addressed to the educationalists?
Boring. Left Humanities
Britain needs more scientists. It does not need more people shrilled on Humanities and Music. Please establish a school that excels in pure and applied science, an environment where children love scientific endearment.
Can't see any benefit from some existing schools with specialisms - new school needs to offer outstanding teaching and learning opportunities across the curriculum.
Choirs for all ages. Choice of the BEST teachers for humanities and music. These subjects promote a pride and love for the school itself and for each other.
Comments
Comprehensive education should be just that. To have specialisms implies that other subjects are not promoted or taught as well and this should be a local school for local people that offer a high standard of education across all subject disciplines.
Concentrate on core education basics and supplement with range of sports
Concentration should be on the basics, English, Maths and Science.
Concerned that these specialisms would remove options for children in North Kingston who are more interested in scientific subjects. Would like information on the specialism's of the schools that children from North Kingston could go to
Considering that this is to be a large school, that there is a severe shortage of secondary places in the borough and it will be the only 'accessible to all' secondary school in Kingston, shouldn't this new school put equal emphasis on all subjects? It is not as though there is a big choice of schools in the area that are accessible to all and which offer specialisms in the sciences and maths i.e. not humanities and music.
Couldn't agree more strongly - it successful, it would lend itself to the kind of rounded education that is so difficult to deliver given the current climate.
Country needs fervent encouragement of science and technology education as well. I speak as a linguist married to a cellist.
creativity creates entrepreneurs and designers and forward thinkers
Depends on the need at the time.
Depends what you mean by "humanities", it could range from the Arts to philosophy. Does it include foreign languages? Please be more specific.

Disagree with specialism's I believe in a balanced common and comprehensive curriculum for all children until 16 years of age
Disagree with specialism's schools should be good at everything an all round education
Disagree with the entire concept of secondary school specialism's and would prefer all maintained schools to be providing high quality teaching across the entire curriculum
Do not agree that there should be a new secondary school so question irrelevant.
Do not agree with specialism - 11 are far too young to decide on a specialism, and even if this were possible, the reality is that without over provision of places children can't choose a school anyway.
Do not believe the concept of specialism's work in its current format.
Do not have evidence to decide. I do agree that a range of specialism's should be offered across Richmond and Kingston schools
Do not know specialism's of other locations
Do not understand the benefit of specialities
Do not understand the selection of these. I thought we had a shortage of maths and science.
Do not want a school on that site
Do secondary schools need to specialise! The broad spectrum of subjects should be mandatory at least up to GCSE level Media art, a music studies are sometimes seen as a soft option which ultimately provides no skills which will be of use in the real world. I feel the old style grammar schools turned out a better end product
Do we really need that number of humanity professionals and musicians? While music makes more sense, humanities make a rather narrow niche in terms of job market
Does a new school have to be so specialised?
Does anybody really believe that a school's specialism makes any difference? If specialism does matter then it should be maths and/or science.
Doesn't matter
Doesn't Tiffin boys specialise in music and drama. What does Holyfield specialise in?
Don't agree with school specialism's but as they exist already this seems a reasonable choice
Don't need a specialist school
Don't think there should be specialism's as it favours students interested in those areas.
Emphasis should be on science
Encourages disregard of other subjects at too young an age.
Excellent choice which will provide a very rich and stimulating education.
Fail see understand the value of music specialism at the proposed school. Feel science, maths, languages (English, Spanish and Mandarin) provide a much better investment in the future for our children.
Feel that adult education centre should stay within Kingston
Feel that specialism's limit a child's choices. Should be a good school overall with lots of provision for everyone.
General knowledge school is also OK.
Get a school sorted first then specialise.....
Given the variety of schools intakes, I doubt the choice of specialism really adds to parental choice.
Good balance across borough
Good subjects to specialise in
Great
Great but how about focussing on sport as well?
How can the council decide specialise in one or two subjects? It is completely irrelevant
How can you decide what specialism before you even have a school
How do you propose a school's specialities before knowing what they excel in and what staff you are

going be able to recruit?
How has this been decided?
Humanities and music are not going to help the students to find a job when they become adult
Humanities and music will not benefit the children's career prospects. Better to be science and technology
Humanities are not a real subject.
Humanities suggest history and geography - whilst very important they don't have the same kudos of sciences or the arts. Will the school have the same/similar pull for higher achieving children or will families still compete for other schools resulting in North Kingston being filled with those who don't get in elsewhere
Humanities -Yes, but there are enough schools already offering music in the borough, there is no need for a specialist one.
Humanities, yes. They are very important. Why only music and not the arts in general?
I am a performing musician so maybe I am biased. But not to have any musical education I see as deprivation. Many children don't care other than listening to pop but often suddenly fall in love with classical music at, say 19, but if uneducated, they feel deprived, missing out and knowing about it.
I am indifferent to this. Music speciality sounds interesting.
I am not convinced that there is a strong enough argument for these specialisms. This will be my closest secondary school (bar Tiffin) and I would prefer to see specialism's in science, technology or business
I am not opposed to specialism's but I can't comment on the wisdom of choosing humanities and music in this case because I don't know what other local schools offer
I am not sure I support "specialism" because it seems unfair if your child's particular gifts fall under a specialty of another school
I am not sure of the reasons behind the specialism.
I am not sure what these specialism's are for other than marketing and funding play. How does it serve a child whose strength lie elsewhere
I am pleased to see the considerations of more creative and less academically focused subjects in the specialism of music.
I am undecided as not sure what is there is a gap in these specialism locally. I hope this will be looked at before a decision reached.
I am utterly against specialisms other than academic specialisation. Music in particular should be an extra-curricular activity if pursued to anything other than normal level; it can be a joy in out of school hours for those who wish to perform, but should not be foisted onto those who do not.
I appreciate that having specialist staff gives access to funding but surely all schools will make use of KMAS anyway. Can specialising wait?
I assume that this is proposed because it will attract additional funding. My preference would be specialising in something more useful - maths or science
I believe a better balance would be Humanities and a more technical subject such as Maths, Computing or Science.
I believe science and maths offer greater opportunities both for the individual and society. It also appears to be a major focus for the government as demonstrated by their recent advertising campaign
I can't comment on this without knowing what the other specialisms of the schools in Kingston are.
I disagree generally with the idea that schools have to have a specialism
I disagree with the Building of the school. Its Specialism's are therefore irrelevant.
I do not believe in specialisms. Excellence should be a hallmark of every subject. Your point about Humanities raising standards in English is very worrying. Standards in English should be raised by excellent English provision.
I do not believe t hat the idea of schools having specialism's is of any particular benefit to the pupils - just another initiative enabling schools to apply for more money
I do not know what the specialties of other local schools are. However, I do believe that there should be a greater emphasis on science and vocational courses within the borough.
I do not think specialism's benefit anyone but those receiving additional funding.

I don't know enough about the implications of this to make a decision
I don't see the need for these specialism's at all, but believe in a full and rounded education for all up to the age of 16. I suffered from this many years ago.
I don't think secondary school specialism's are that important
I don't approve of schools specializing in any subject or area. It's a gimmick. Kids should go to the nearest school, and it should be able to cater for them all and not favour the ones who want to specialize in any particular are of study. Anyway, kids need to discover and choose their own specialism's and not have them imposed by others, whether parents or schools.
I don't care about the subjects; the school should not be built. End of.
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I don't feel strongly
I don't know what compulsory subjects are taught today but I think that sociology should be taught to all children in secondary school, the same way sex education is a standard to make children aware of their impact in the community
I don't mind what the specialities are, as long as the general schooling is good
I don't see why schools need a specialism. As it will be the only co-ed, non selective school in the area, it should aim to be strong in all subjects
I don't think the fact that no other school in Kingston specialises in Humanities and Music (doesn't Tiffin have Music with Maths, (or ICT?), anyway) is sufficiently sound justification for this. Do we want every box ticked? If this is a school that most of North Kingston pupils will choose, then what meets the needs of the pupils of North Kingston? If we're not getting a selective school, then can't the specialism at least increase the opportunities for the disadvantaged academically able Kingston students by specialising in a demanding subject like Modern Languages and Maths and Science?
I don't understand how this would benefit all pupils at the new school, including those with aptitude in other areas. The priority for the new school should be to achieve high standards in all academic subjects and aim to rapidly become a centre of excellence in the borough, rather than focusing on particular specialism's.
I don't understand why any schools have specialism's - surely the idea is to provide an all round education.
I don't understand why that should be but I am easy on that
I feel that the specialism's system has been somewhat overdone by Government but given that we must adhere to it, these are good choices to ensure a spread in the borough.
I feel that these elements should be included but a full, all round education is needed
I feel that this is a good emphasis on the creative side rather than on just academic, as many other schools focus on academic subjects over creative ones. Also, at a school of mixed abilities, the creative side of the spectrum is particularly important. I believe this should even be exaggerated more through specialisms on drama and art as well as music.
I have never had this element of schooling explained - how do you specialise in a specific area and how does this impact on Children from one extreme of a borough being able to reach the other to attain in a specific subject (e.g. Children from Chessington travelling to the North site for one thing and others from Coombe travelling to Chessington for sports related education.
I have no experience of this kind of school - would other subjects like science and maths still be offered?
I have no opinion on this as I don't know what the other schools specialise in or what the need is in the borough
I have to accept that the selection of humanities and music represent best fit within the authorities existing pattern of provision. However in education terms mathematics and music are often considered as a better pairing.
I have two boys and would also want the school to have great sports facilities.
I have very strong feeling about education in the arts and wish mine had included music
I hope this would not be to the detriment of other subjects
I oppose the proposal completely.

I prefer to encourage solid grounding in all aspects of basics to include science and maths. Music whilst important is not as relevant to other aspects of life as good general science knowledge is.
I strongly disagree with building a school of any type on the North Kingston site.
I strongly disagree with the building of any secondary school on the North Kingston site.
I strongly disagree with the whole specialist concept. I would prefer funding to be distributed according to need. However given the policy exists, I have no particular objection to the chosen topics.
I think all schools should offer good facilities for all specialism's, but I suppose that if that isn't possible the proposed specialism's make sense.
I think an all round education is more important and an emphasis on the sciences would be more useful
I think it should be specialist for those with disabilities
I think it would be better for the school to specialise either in Languages or Technology/Maths. I do not think that the kids would benefit from Humanities and Music.
I think it would be good to have speciality is something like music as it will make students more well rounded.
I think that as long as specialism's in one specific area does not mean that other areas suffered this is ok
I think that the need for Maths needs to be respected as a specialism too
I think the proposed specialism's should be academic
I think the school should aim to excel in all areas. I think specialism is wrong for two reasons: 1. Specialism is only of value when there is a real choice of school and most children end up going to the only school that offers them a place. 2. Children are forced to make career-defining educational decisions too early in this country. Only a very small number will know at 11 where their real abilities and interests lie. There is a danger that the direction they take will be imposed by the school which will no doubt encourage pupils to concentrate on those subjects that the school does best in order to enhance the school's position in the league tables.
I think this is irrelevant
I thought we needed more scientists!
I trust your judgement that Humanities and Music are best to balance out the Kingston School specialism's on offer.
I was amazed recently to find that some areas of the curriculum such as art are downgraded in some specialist schools with heads of department amalgamated e.g. art/drama/visual arts put together. Most of the children attending this school will have no other option so they are already having to attend a humanities and music school whether they want to or not.
I would also want to suggest if the new school could add specialist in science, trade and economics
I would be happy to go with the views of local ed department
I would have thought that IT, scientific skills would be more in demand in terms of the pupils future employment possibilities
I would like to hear some arguments for the choice of these subjects or others.
I would like to see a new skills school for the new GREEN economy, we need to develop new skills for the new era
I would prefer it if the specialism's were on music, drama and art to develop a creative aspect in students where there is scope to focus especially on the fine arts and on drama, which is also useful for building confidence and developing speaking skills for later life. This would particularly good because of the contrast it would have on the specialisms of Tiffin Girls' which is very academically orientated. This could mean that pupils from Tiffin Girls' School could possibly use the creative faculties of the new school whilst Tiffin Girls' could offer their extra academic facilities. I also believe that not enough schools offer these specialisms and this new school would create a great opportunity to develop the artistic side of education.
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I would prefer it to be focussed on maths and science which are more relevant for contemporary education and will give children better foundation for higher education
I would prefer the specialism's to be in more academic subjects e.g. science and maths
I would prefer the specialism's to focus more on areas where there are skill shortages - such as science and engineering.
I would rather a focus on core skills in Maths, English and Science.
I'd prefer to see a science bias
ideally the school should be strong in all core subjects
If it's going to be such a big school, why are specialisms's needed?
If part of the school is at the Hawker Centre for sport. The ideal choice would be to provide a boat house for rowing as not many schools these days have facilities for this particular sport.
If that is important, then fine
If there must be a school it should support all subject equally.
If these are selected for in some way.
If this is part of a borough wide programme and that children in other schools will benefit and that the pupils in the new school will benefit form specialism's elsewhere then I can support this
If you are going to build it, at least give it decent specialism's
If you are going to have a non selective school there is little point having "specialisms". How will this cater for all children? Why not "specialise" in offering a good all round education for all?
I'm not convinced by this, sounds like it could be a bit wishy-washy... There might be a good reason why other schools don't have these as a specialism! How far does this have to be fixed now? Could you develop the specialism in conjunction with the head, once appointed?
I'm not too bothered what the specialities are as long as the teaching is good across the board.
In an area which used to host precision (aircraft) engineering and now has many parents working in Business and the City, the specialism's should be business/engineering based
In light of the changing economic requirements of the country, specialising in these areas will not be helping the children to gain an education which will be relevant to the future - IT, science cannot be ignored for the future - whilst humanities and music should not be ignored they are not really the specialism's that will enable the pupils to go to university or into the workplace with an education that will be relevant! It's a nice to have but I would always look to employ people with technical skills first! A broad education is important which will enable the pupils to have a good opportunity to access a wide range of opportunities for further education or in the employment market - these specialism's are niche markets and will only benefit a small number of pupils.
In order to reflect employment demands Science and maths
In the modern world, I feel that it is essential that more emphasis is put on vital subjects such as Maths, Technology and the sciences.
In the past when very large schools were introduced, it was argued that one needed a certain size of school so that teachers specialising in the whole range of subjects would be on the staff. I think it is important that all pupils up to the age of 16 have the opportunity to experience the full range of subjects
Insufficient information
irrelevant to the issue
Is this a school to meet need in an area or is it a specialist school which covers all Kingston? It cannot be both. And having a "specialism" for 12 year old is ridiculous. Sound like hogwash to me.
It is better for all local schools to cover ALL subjects properly for the local pupils. It is not sensible for pupils to have to travel across the borough to attend specialised subjects
It is doubtful that such specialisms would aid the majority of students to gain employment. IT/computing might be a better choice

It is good to see RBK recognise non vocational subjects
It is not clear how a music specialism would "support the borough" considering the distance from its southern extremities
It is unnecessary to specialise in anything. Schools should be effective in all areas of the curriculum
It must be very academic as well. Maths, Science
It should be a good school all round.
It should give its pupils a good general education
It should provide opportunities for children to specialise in all other areas. Secondary school is not the right age for specialisms. It is fine for 6th form but not years 7-10
It should specialise in science and technology
It suggests that children who are wealthy enough to receive extracurricular tuition in music would receive preferential treatment.
It would be good to have a centre of excellence and resources for RE
It's fairly irrelevant since most families would pick it on its location and reputation, not its specialism. Just an excuse to take everyone and not have a catchment area, as I do not feel that there would be enough applicants from Kingston for this type of specialist school.
just because no other school in Kingston has these is not a good enough reason to specialise in them if it's a non selective school
Just concentrate on a general good standard of education
Languages would be good as well
Let's focus on the proper subjects such as maths, English and the sciences. The future lies in these subjects, not the fictional subjects such as music and humanities.
Like the idea of KMAS share of space and specialist music school resource
Look at the schools nearby, and you will see that Tiffin Girls' School, for example, already specialises in Music. The New School should specialise in a different subject.
Make it catchment area only
makes no difference
Making use of the whole brain - left and right hemispheres of the brain. It will provide good ground for learning and developing creativity. Apply their intellectual insights across different subjects.
Mathematics and science are important subjects - schools should be striving towards better results in these areas.
Mathematics or science subjects should be the priority.
Maths and English
Maths and English would be better "specialism's"
maths and science
Maths and science
Maths and Science or English and Humanities would be a better combination
meaningless twoddle - specialism's are the invention of bureaucrats for all the wrong reasons
More academic secondary school would be much more beneficial in the long run
More academic specialism would be preferable
More emphasis should be placed on subjects which better provide for the future chances of pupils such as science, maths and foreign languages.
more focus on Humanities
More practical subjects please! How does having a Humanities specialism really help? All schools should be striving for high standards and progress in English.
Much emphasis elsewhere on science & IT
Music - ok Humanities: would wonder why no has picked it before
Music and the Arts in general should form a very important part of the curriculum

Music great that is education, but leave politics out of schools, this way of thinking in the last dozen or so years, has damaged education.
Music is a good specialism, but would be much better paired with a useful second specialism such as maths, English or science. The uptake of humanities at degree level is dropping.
Music is great but leads to dead end-celebrity wannabees! Maths+science are more important + English
Music is strength at primary level across the borough and I would very much like to see this consolidated at secondary level. I have been concerned by benign neglect of the humanities in our local secondary schools and would like this to be redressed
Music too riche. I have 3 boys who enjoy maths/science/IT - more "boyish" subjects. Already have Tiffin Girls here - the borough needs better provision for boys and should lean towards boys strengths.
Music yes Humanities No
Music Yes The arts in general as 'Academic' children are very well catered for in this
Music yes, but I believe an emphasis on science and languages is needed to address the declining popularity of these areas. Humanities are well served and supported already.
My bias is forward the humanities and music, but surely a large school could offer excellence in the sciences as well? Is it an either or situation or is it to balance already existing school with science/ technology specialities.
My opinion is that the new school should lean towards more objective disciplines which will help children when they enter the world of work. I interview too many humanities graduates who have few transferable work skills and little knowledge as to how business and indeed life works. Non core activities should also include music and appreciation of the arts for some and team sports for others dependent on their inclination.
My preference would be sports and sciences
Need productive qualifications to aid our ailing economy
Need proper qualifications to be taught which give pupils a prospect of future employment in the real World.
need science
Need to review the specialisms at other local schools. There are already specialisms in sport. Humanities are offered at all local schools - I would prefer good quality education towards sciences and engineering - aren't they more required? I don't know about music.
Need to specialise in getting everyone to be able to read, write, arithmetic
Needs to be non specialist, rounded curriculum
Needs to have a broader base if to serve the whole borough
No comment
No comment
NO COMMENTS
No fads or specialisms. Children need a good strong basic all-round education!
No school of the size proposed should specialise in anything. Nor should the school specialise in anything given the lack of choice of schools in the area.
No strong feelings
North Kingston needs more all round good quality secondary education. To specialise in one or two areas leaves all of the others (maths, science, art. sport) unaddressed.
Not a good mix of specialities. Maybe music and art?
NOT APPLICABLE
not at the expense of other subjects that my child may excel
Not challenging
Not enough information provided about humanities and what this would cover
Not in a position to comment on need of LEA specialism
Not Music! More health, fitness, sport

Not needed
Not relevant to debate about site of new school
Not relevant to fundamental planning questions
Not so much music maybe?
not sure about specialism's, prepared to be all subjects
Not sure how the specialism's work so cannot really comment
Not sure of the value of specialism's. Most people want children to go to good local schools and don't choose by a specialism - but I guess that government policy so if it provides a balance in the borough, okay
Of course any specialism's would be an advantage for pupils
Ok if all children still have every opportunity and resource to excel in other subjects, especially maths and sciences.
On the basis that this is not at the expense of other specialisms and that the school strives for excellent provision in all areas.
On the basis that this specialism is absent from present provision.
Or Business Studies or Modern Languages any is OK.
Parents have waited long enough for a senior school. Let it be one that serves the needs of all pupils. Also the employment prospects for graduates in humanities and music are not good.
Performing Arts (which particularly means Music) is already a specialism offered by Tiffin School and the new school is unlikely to be offered the opportunities that Tiffin boys have, e.g., singing at the Royal Opera House, recording CDs with the LSO etc
Performing Arts specialism's at Tiffin Boys/KGS so will be good to provide Music specialism in a non selective school
Personally I am not a fan of specialisms. Secondary school should provide an all round balanced education for children in the near locality.
Personally, I don't think music is to be a strong focus, humanities on the other hand good benefit more and perhaps provide students with better opportunities after school.
Please enable too gifted children to realise their potential
Prefer general business or technical
Prefer science, technology or business
Priority is a good local school offering a broad based education to all children.
promotion of a specialist school is always welcome where one can offer a diversified curriculum but specialise in the arts
Provided these subjects do not mean an inadequate provision for other subjects like Maths and Science
Providing it does not disadvantage those pupils who are not of this bent.
Provision for music at Tiffin and TGS is already excellent - how about sport instead!
Pupils need to learn the basics especially spoken English, witch these days is dreadful
Pupils should receive a grounded education that includes basic subjects Maths, English, Science (bio chem), Geography, History, IT - not specialism's
relevant specialism's
scene is ver. important- we need to attract excellent science teachers to the borough
Schools should be excellent at the basics first (Maths, English and Science) before embarking on this.
Schools should be specialists in all subjects
schools should provide excellent all round education and specialism's
science
Science
Science + Technology + Languages. Those are subjects most likely to lead to job opportunities in future years

Science and languages the main priority
Science and Mathematics
Science and Maths preferred as more disciplined
Science and Maths would provide far better job prospects than humanities and music
Science and Maths!!
science and technical subjects should also be included
Science is more useful
Science is what the UK needs for future economic growth. Strong maths, physics chemistry is essential
Science more important than Humanities
science should be choice
Science subjects should be emphasised
Science, maths and IT should be given high priority. Sport should also be central to activities. Boys in particular would be let down without a strong focus on these areas. There seems to be a modern trend for promoting humanities and music and a neglect of science subjects. This is a national problem and this project would seem an ideal opportunity to begin to redress the balance. The majority of pupils leaving this school will go on to university. They should be prepared for this by receiving a sound academic education. Any aim other than this is unambitious and will fail to fulfil the potential of many. It is clearly important that all children should encounter music and humanities in the school life but with so much exposure to these disciplines outside school it is unlikely they will be short-changed.
Sciences and mathematics are more important
Sciences are the subjects that should be being promoted at the moment.
Sciences should be a priority. There is a complete lack of concentration on science which is detrimental to children in being able to understand the world around them.
Sciences should be dominant. The 21st century in the UK will depend upon its scientists and engineers for prosperity. We are way beyond China and India
Sciences, languages and maths, as well as music and humanities should comprise the focus of education - i.e. a broad range.
Secondary schools should provide an all round curriculum
See aforementioned
Seems reasonable
Seems unlikely to help students at a non selective school develop the skills they will need for the workplace.
Should be able to teach all subjects and not just 2 or 3
Should be balanced to accommodate pupil skills and needs
Should be encouraging interest in more useful subjects
should be maths and music or languages and music
Should be more academic (English maths etc)
should be rounded options science/humanities
Should not have specialisms but cater for all
Should not need to specialise. Get good staff. If the school is so big it should have enough staff to excel in several areas.
Should not specialise, but have an equally good facility for all topics
Shouldn't all schools aim for excellent standards of teaching and resources for all subjects across the curriculum? Wouldn't humanities specialism imply maths/science standards not so good?
Shouldn't this depend on the need of potential pupils?
Site too small for an 8 form entry school
Soft subjects - concentrate on science, English (drama even) to attract a wider range of pupils and abilities. Is there a need to have specialisms? Can't there just be a good all round secondary school or

does this have funding implications?
Sounds 'nice' but the priorities should be maths, Science and English
Specialise in core subjects
Specialising in Humanities and Music is preposterous! The school should be specialising in academic subjects such as Science, Engineering, Economics and Languages. We need to educate our children in subjects which will provide them with the skills they need to get a job, or go to University when they leave school. Arts and Music are important, but any decent school will be offering these as extracurricular activities, not as a core to their education. We have an excellent University in the borough, with a Faculty of Science, and a business school. The local education authority should be working in partnership with the University in order to gain the benefit of their expertise in these areas.
Specialism in maths/science/sports are not as much emphasised in the area so far, so that would be our preferred specialism
Specialism is fine if you have a choice of school. However, this is not, and will not be the situation in North Kingston
Specialism's are a con - either schools are specialist and offer choice in which case children are ferried about the borough causing yet more traffic or they are genuine community schools giving children a good general education. I prefer the latter
Specialism's are very wishy washy - Looks like the Council are targeting pupils who "may not" be good at other things
Specialism's only work if the pupils actually have special talents in those areas. As the proposed school is not to be selective, this will not be the case.
Specialisms are just a gimmick. Just offer a first class school which has a good ethos, community spirit and good teaching and music.
Specialisms should be science, technology and music to help prepare young people for a more technological future.
Specialisms suggest an element of choice for pupils keen on these subjects. In reality there is no choice
sport must be also a priority with playing fields
Sport too?
Sports course?
Subjects not relevant to future lives in a working environment.
Surely a non-selective school should not be selective about the curriculum it provides? Either be non-selective and offer a broad education or specialise and select pupils appropriate to that specialisation.
Surely a school can teach all subjects and all schools should teach English and Mathematics as a minimum.
Surely maths and English are more important than music.
that s okay I like humans
The boys and girls should have opportunities the same as for all not just the select few in private schools
The country and region need far more of an emphasis on SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY for the long term. The benefit of a humanities and music focus have not been convincingly argued in the consultation paper
The country definitely doesn't need any more social scientists. It would be better for the school to specialise in Music and Science. The country needs more scientists and engineers to compete with the rest of the world.
The country is full of graduates of media studies, psychology and performing arts who have very few opportunities and few transferable skills. Would prefer the specialism's to be more relevant to achieving employment in the real world - such as IT, science or languages.
The essential academic subjects are Maths, English and a Science so these are the areas to specialise in.
The future is dependent on science and technology not humanities and music. the school should focus on the subjects that will offers its pupils a better start in their careers
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The future is dependent on science and technology not humanities and music. the school should focus on the subjects that will offers its pupils a better start in their careers
The humanities and music should play a key part in any school's curriculum. However, I would question the desirability of creating such "specialist" schools when providing an education to meet the competitive challenges of the world in the 21st century and the economic problems likely to be faced by this country for many years to come. A strong specialist faculty within a strong school could emerge in due course depending on the enthusiasm of both staff and pupils.
The majority of 11 year olds are happy to go to a good local school with their peer group. they will not need to choose or reject humanities+ music until they start their GCSE study
The more specialism's the better chance a child knows what they will enjoy doing and is good at. Keeping them busy and focused on their skills.
The national curriculum is statutory and therefore the additional strengths are a bonus
The need for more secondary school places outweighs the need to specialise. Take the pressure away from Holyfield NOT add to it!
The school should aim to specialise in providing a FULL education - children should not be restricted so early in their school life. If there is any specialization it should be in Maths, English and Science. Music and Humanities interests can be tackled outside school if desired.
The school should be strong in all subjects. It is vital that the outmoded division between arts and sciences should be broken down. They should be seen as essentially interrelated approaches to an understanding of the physical and social world within which we live. To make either a 'specialism' will inevitably downgrade the perceived importance of the other.
The school will put a lot of pressure on the local bus services and also have a negative effect Tiffin girl's school & Fern hill school.
The specialisms of the school should be based on maths and sciences with additional emphasis on the arts. A balanced education
The supporting documentation doesn't outline the specialisms of other Kingston schools, or provide a particularly strong argument for these specialisms, especially humanities. More info about the benefits of choosing these specialism's over others is required to make an informed decision, as is information on the benefits of the school having any specialism's. Is this ever to the detriment of other subjects?
The UK needs more scientists and engineers. I feel that a focus on humanities and music will be to the detriment of our children's future
There are few jobs in music or humanities. It would be better to focus on Maths, Science and Languages which provide more jobs like teaching, local authority work, health, forces etc.
There is already a selective boys' school with excellent musical facilities. If it is open for consultation for the proposed school to be selective, provision would become unbalanced unless you are making the assumption that the new school be non- selective. If so, why consult on selective issue?
There is generally a pecking order in terms of popularity for schools with specialism's with drama, PE, technology and business generally being at the top
There is no need for a speciality. All subjects are important areas of study and should be seen by the pupils as such.
There should be more focus on science and technology as we need more expertise in these.
There should not be any specialism if the proposal for a school that aims to take in students of such diversity. It tends to fail those that seek science and other academic subjects which provide a wider education for better job prospects on the world market. Specialism tends to draw a large proportion of resources for facilities leaving other areas lacking. Specialism should be left for further educational stages when individual strengths and preferences become more defined within an individual. Music and humanities can be sought in extracurricular activities and other establishments where the facilities are already in place.
There would be for too many pupils in a relatively small area
These are not overly required in today's labour market. Maths, IT, Science and Engineering is. Children need skills for tomorrow that equip them to enter higher education, and leave with a qualification that is relevant and worth something in the job market, that will assure their future.
These are subjects I feel strongly about promoting in education and they provide children with valuable skills

These children will need a more rounded education for future life.
These specialism's enhance cultural development and bring lifelong interest and enjoyment. This may also enrich the lives of those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
These specialism's have the lowest value in terms of future career prospects. Computing / maths / science / finance / languages would be much more appropriate.
This country lacks good scientists and engineers. Stop focussing on the arts and helping to create a nation of x-factors wannabees.
This depends on population demand according to the survey result.
This is a school and an overall education is important.
This is an unusual specialist genre but may be good for another aspect of Kingston schools
This is not the issue.
This is unimportant. Often the only reason for such designation is to attract funding.
This limits children in the catchment area who may wish to study other specialist studies
This offer could just as easily be made on the Grey court School site
This seems entirely logical given that there are currently no other schools in Kingston with these specialisms. A specialism in music in conjunction with Kingston Music and Arts Service sounds very exciting. This would give many children the opportunity to join in music making, including many who may not otherwise have the chance. This is great for personal confidence, development and for the community too. I presume these facilities for Arts and Music would also be available to the public. This could make the school very popular.
This should be decided when the children's interest and abilities are fully accounted for, sometime after it is fully occupied
This so called specialism's are a nonsensical gimmick
This sounds a bit wishy washy. Does the School have to have set specialist subject areas and why not duplicate? I would have thought there is a reason why these areas have not been selected as specialism's by other Schools.
This specialism malarkey is a load of tosh, solely designed to draw down extra funding. The school should excel in all subjects.
This will be a good opportunity for students who have different interests in those areas as opposed to maths, science and English.
This would suggest a school to meet the needs of less academic children. I would prefer it to have no specialism and attract bright children who fail to get into Tiffin's
Though it makes little difference in reality because we have no choice about which school to choose for our children...
Tiffin Boys and the Grammar Schools both claim to be music specialists. A huge school of this sort should provide a first rate GENERAL education. The minority who toward the end of their school career need specialised facilities should be able to move freely between schools as and when individual lessons require.
too many fluffy schools already needs math and science based
Too scared to specialise in sciences? Humanities and Music are an easy option
Too specialist for a huge school
Unable to comment but cannot see reasons for or against
Unable to comment really as do not know what school specialise in
Unless it is selective for gifted and talented humanities and music students, I do not understand the specialism status for any secondary school
Until the school is set up how can you possibly be considered for a specialism as you have no track record
Very nice if the government doesn't kill off humanities places at university, which will happen in the current climate. We already suffered when languages at 14 were cut off and whole departments disappeared (some with excellent teachers, even at a failing school at the time.)
Very weak subjects. We need specialism's that will equip children with skills to get jobs - science - computers!

We already have 2 sports based schools. This is a great idea.
We have enough unemployable arts graduates. Children should be taught maths and sciences to give them any hope for the future.
We need a secondary school that is a good "all rounder" on subjects
We need schools to give an ALL ROUND education to our children - these specialities are TOO EASY an option
We would like a broad curriculum including maths and sciences
We, the UK, need many more scientists and engineers - people who naturally make things. The proposed subjects will not help the need one iota!
What about business and enterprise or as in one school I know of, environmental issues?
What about science and maths - the subjects our country actually needs; it is awash with 'soft option' academies, why build another?
What about sport, design, art? Nothing against humanities and music but why specialism's in these areas? Not every child is musically talented or gifted academically
What about SPORT????!!!!!!!
What about sports and practical course to equip with lifelong skills?
What about them? Music is very important. At my school we had an orchestra and all had to choose an instrument. I will never forget playing the flute and the love of music instilled in me. This was started at primary school
What are humanities for goodness sake???
What are the choices? Music? Does not sound like the best choice for a specialism. Something more academic may be better
What is the argument for this? Surely Science and Maths are more relevant for today's society
What is the point of making a non-selective school if it is based on humanities and music? There are so many people who do not like humanities and music.
What is this suggestion based on? Is there a planned spread of specialisms in the wider area?
What will this mean in practice?
What's the point? People want a new school because of location not specialisms.
Where are the specialist schools for science, arts, sports etc.
Wherever a new school is built (not on the North Kingston Site) the special subjects must be Humanities and Music
While not being against this specialism, Why do we need a specific area of expertise when all parts of education are important in later life?
Whilst I like the idea are humanities a must? Does a school need a specialism to be great? Sports and health education and language are just as important and should also feature strongly and in school with a major specialism more likely to attract greater numbers of pupils and churn out budding musicians or are it just to fill a space as there are currently no schools with this specialism?
Who decides these specialisms and why have they chosen humanities and music?
Wholly inappropriate for the needs of the community and the country. Specialism's should be more science and business targeted to produce students who will contribute more
Why are these subjects picked out especially?
Why do schools have to specialise? Need to offer a high standard across all subjects
Why do you need specialisms? specialise in all round education
Why does it need to specialise?
Why does the school need to specialise? Parents in North Kingston will seek to send their children to this school regardless of specialism
Why hasn't it been chosen by any school?!
Why have humanities and music been chosen against subjects like science and maths which seem to be less popular

Why have these been chosen?
Why humanities and music?
Why humanities and music? Why not language? I get the argument for music but humanities are not that useful career wise. I've got a geography degree and masters in Social Science - I know!
Why just music? The arts in general need as much attention.
Why no single - ? These subjects?
Why not core subjects like Maths and English?
Why not make science and useful vocational subjects like IT or geography/languages.
Why not Maths and Sciences? These seem to me to be more useful skills for children and more likely to improve job prospects. Or ICT
Why not say science and environmental studies?
Why should schools have to have specialisms? Again this leads to more pupils travelling from further away
why specialise - there needs to be access to a rounded education for all subjects
Why specialise?
Why specialise?
Why specialise? Do other subjects then slip? Why not concentrate on being best at all
Why specialise? I believe all schools should provide the same standard of curriculum subjects to all pupils.
Why specialise? It's a comprehensive; it should give a rounded education to everyone. Should a child go elsewhere if their strong subject is physics? Sounds like a gimmick.
Why these?
Why this particular specialisation - has there been consultation?
Why this specialism is's chosen? Are these the skills the children will need to get jobs? I would have thought a focus on sciences would have improved chances of employment and future training
Why?
Why?
Why? Just make it a good, successful school and teach the students well
Why? not enough info
Why? What a ridiculous suggestion! 8+ forms is a very large school and should be able to provide for the widest range of subjects to be pursued, even at a 'specialist' level. I would not wish to see humanities and music resourced or promoted to pupils above maths, sciences, other arts, sports etc. Parents will select this school because it is local (and hopefully because it is good) not because it offers a specialism - in any case, it would be absurd to make a choice on this basis at the age of 10 or 11.
WHY??
Will humanities include a foreign language?
Will literacy and music assistants be hired? This would be a good idea
Will selection on specialism be used? This has not been explained.
Will the Humanities specialisms include drama? There is a need for reasonable size theatre that would also suit the needs of Tiffin Schools
With this focus the specification for the building and use of the building should include good quality and well fitted out performance, rehearsal and practice space that is available for and managed effectively for community use.
Won't that clash with the speciality of Tiffin's - oh hang, that doesn't matter as most pupils at Tiffin's are out of borough due to the Greenwich ruling...
Work is a good idea I'm not sure about humanities. Would ICT be better
Would like more details on the other options and possibilities plus an explanation of what it means for a school to have a specialism. For example, will this encourage pupils from outside the local area because

of the specialism and will this then create a similar problem that already exists with one of the other local schools
Would MUCH rather see specialism of science and technology - would better prepare our children for the work place - hard to make a career of humanities and we can only have so many musicians and music teachers!!
Would prefer more vocational/practical specialism's
Would this allow for selective entry for those who wish to specialise? Would children from across the borough take places from more local children and be willing to travel for these specialisations. Music specialisation would be better in the centre of the borough somewhere (I though Tiffin's had music specialist status?)
Yes - so long as all students are not expected to choose both of these at option choice time.
Yes I feel there is an opening for a school with these specialism's
Yes, a good idea to build different specialism's to that of other schools.
You do not say anything about what this implies for other disciplines. We support the proposed specialism if it's an optional character profile, but we are more interested to have an all-round excellent school with good facilities both for arts and sciences, and sport.
You do not say what the other options are! I would suggest that Latchmere with its 4 feeder classes is a centre of excellence for maths - maths could be a candidate.
Your argument? Word system - no understanding - where are languages?