

Christopher Martin - Additional Point on Capacity

During evidence in chief on 03/09/2026 I raised additional evidence which had not been presented previously. The reason for this late additional was due to school holidays and personal leave.

The purpose of bringing forward this evidence was to provide supporting evidence as to the capacity of the 6th form of Croxley Danes School and Westfield Academy.

Contact was made with both schools to get a direct answer from the schools as to their 6th form capacity. This contact was made by my colleague at my request and the reasoning for this request was explained to the schools. The e-mail exchange from the schools is included below.

Dominic Richards, Chief Operating Officer of the Danes Trust, which operates Croxley Danes school has confirmed that although their funding agreement allows for up to 306 pupils, their net capacity assessment only shows physical space for up to 196 pupils. He also confirmed that the funding agreement allows for up to 400 pupils at St Clement Danes, their net capacity assessment only shows physical space for up to 398 pupils.

Tim Body, Headteacher of Westfield Academy, has confirmed that 300 pupils was the limit of sixth form capacity, whilst caveating that with 'Currently - if I'm honest we will struggle with 300, which we may have by Sept 27 (never had those numbers before) - I was in the process of building a sixth form centre but costs rocketed so I had to pull back'. Therefore, indicating the school was looking to increase physical capacity to meet need.

Matthew Fletcher, Headteacher of Rickmansworth school, has confirmed the funding agreement for the school allows for up to 315 sixth form pupils. However, due to the change in their Net capacity assessment this would now indicate they are over capacity by 53 pupils.

From: [Philip Brunt](#)
To: [Christopher Martin](#)
Subject: Fw: Sixth Form Capacity
Date: 03 September 2026 16:01:42

Phil Brunt

Planning Officer, School Planning (West)

Children's Services

Postal Point CHO134

Hertfordshire County Council, Room 145, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN

Telephone: 01992 555811 (Comnet/Internal: 25811)

From: TB@westfield.academy <TB@westfield.academy> on behalf of H Teacher
<head@westfield.academy>

Sent: Thursday, 03 September 2026 15:56:21

To: Philip Brunt <Philip.Brunt@hertfordshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Sixth Form Capacity

Currently - if I'm honest we will struggle with 300, which we may have by Sept 27 (never had those numbers before) - I was in the process of building a sixth form centre but costs rocketed so I had to pull back

On Thu, 3 Sept 2026 at 15:17, Philip Brunt <Philip.Brunt@hertfordshire.gov.uk> wrote:

Good man.

How much could you potentially admit?

A developer has put in a planning permission and in some cases it's refused – sometimes due to us saying that there is not enough infrastructure capacity, other times it is the same but we have asked for S106 monies from the developer to fund infrastructure development – in responding we need to show how there is not enough capacity in our schools, and the numbers on roll often differ from the net capacity surveys completed by either us, the schools or the DfE, which is what the education consultants often cite in their appeals/arguments. This is all part of the development and planning stages of large-scale housing sites where the aim is to sell as many houses for as much without anything going towards infrastructure

Phil Brunt

Planning Officer, School Planning (West)

Children's Services

Postal Point CHO134

Hertfordshire County Council, Room 145, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN

Telephone: 01992 555811 (Comnet/Internal: 25811)

From: TB@westfield.academy <TB@westfield.academy> **On Behalf Of** H Teacher

Sent: 03 September 2026 14:40

To: Philip Brunt <Philip.Brunt@hertfordshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Sixth Form Capacity

Hi yep all good cheers, - what's a "development enquiry?" - I think it's 150 each year - so 300.

On Wed, 2 Sept 2026 at 11:23, Philip Brunt <Philip.Brunt@hertfordshire.gov.uk> wrote:

Morning Tim,

Hope you're keeping ok. We're giving evidence at a development inquiry and would like to know the current sixth form capacity at Westfield (maximum number of sixth form students you can admit).

If you could let me know by Friday morning (apologies for the quick turnaround) that would be most helpful.

Thanks,

Phil Brunt

Planning Officer, School Planning (West)

Children's Services

Postal Point CHO134

Hertfordshire County Council, Room 145, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN

Telephone: 01992 555811 (Comnet/Internal: 25811)

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From: [Philip Brunt](#)
To: [Christopher Martin](#)
Subject: Fw: Sixth Form Capacity
Date: 03 September 2026 15:39:29
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Phil Brunt

Planning Officer, School Planning (West)

Children's Services

Postal Point CHO134

Hertfordshire County Council, Room 145, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN

Telephone: 01992 555811 (Comnet/Internal: 25811)

From: Dominic Richards <drichards@danessedtrust.org.uk>
Sent: Thursday, 03 September 2026 15:35:05
To: Philip Brunt <Philip.Brunt@hertfordshire.gov.uk>
Cc: Susan Poole <spoole@danessedtrust.org.uk>
Subject: Re: Sixth Form Capacity

Hi Phil,

Net capacity for St clement danes

[image.png](#)



So net capacity 1598

- 1200 (y7 - y11 240 in each year) = 398

so 6th form capacity = 398.

Thanks

Dom

Dominic Richards

Chief Operating Officer

Danes Educational Trust

T: 01923 589 698 M: 07967821420

drichards@danessedtrust.org.uk

www.danessedtrust.org.uk

C/o St Clement Danes School
Chenies Road
Chorleywood
Hertfordshire
WD3 6EW

Making the difference together

On Thu, 3 Sept 2026 at 15:18, Philip Brunt <Philip.Brunt@hertfordshire.gov.uk> wrote:

Thanks Dominic,

Is that the maximum number of places you could offer at both schools based on physical capacity?

Phil Brunt

Planning Officer, School Planning (West)

Children's Services

Postal Point CHO134

Hertfordshire County Council, Room 145, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN

Telephone: 01992 555811 (Comnet/Internal: 25811)

From: Dominic Richards <drichards@danessedtrust.org.uk>
Sent: 03 September 2026 13:51
To: Philip Brunt <Philip.Brunt@hertfordshire.gov.uk>; Susan Poole <spoole@danessedtrust.org.uk>
Subject: Re: Sixth Form Capacity

Hi Phil,

6th form capacity numbers as follows:

St Clement Danes: 400

Croxley Danes: 306

Let me know if you need anything further

Dom

Dominic Richards

Chief Operating Officer

Danes Educational Trust

T: 01923 589 698 M: 07967821420
drichards@danessedtrust.org.uk
www.danessedtrust.org.uk

C/o St Clement Danes School
Chenies Road
Chorleywood
Hertfordshire
WD3 6EW

Making the difference together

On Wed, 2 Sept 2026 at 11:25, Philip Brunt <Philip.Brunt@hertfordshire.gov.uk> wrote:

| And also for St Clement Danes too, please.

Phil Brunt

Planning Officer, School Planning (West)

Children's Services

Postal Point CHO134

Hertfordshire County Council, Room 145, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN

Telephone: 01992 555811 (Comnet/Internal: 25811)

From: Philip Brunt

Sent: 02 September 2026 11:22

To: Dominic Richards <drichards@danessedtrust.org.uk>

Subject: Sixth Form Capacity

Morning Dominic,

We're giving evidence at a development inquiry and would like to know the current sixth form capacity at Croxley Danes (maximum number of sixth form students you can admit).

If you could let me know by Friday morning (apologies for the quick turnaround) that would be most helpful.

Thanks,

Phil Brunt

Planning Officer, School Planning (West)

Children's Services

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From: [Philip Brunt](#)
To: [Christopher Martin](#)
Subject: Fw: Sixth Form Capacity
Date: 03 September 2026 15:32:33
Attachments: [image.png](#)

For croxley danes

Phil Brunt

Planning Officer, School Planning (West)

Children's Services

Postal Point CHO134

Hertfordshire County Council, Room 145, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN

Telephone: [01992 555811](tel:01992555811) (Comnet/Internal: 25811)

From: Philip Brunt <Philip.Brunt@hertfordshire.gov.uk>

Sent: Thursday, 03 September 2026 15:31:47

To: Christopher Martin <Christopher.Martin@hertfordshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Fw: Sixth Form Capacity

Phil Brunt

Planning Officer, School Planning (West)

Children's Services

Postal Point CHO134

Hertfordshire County Council, Room 145, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN

Telephone: [01992 555811](tel:01992555811) (Comnet/Internal: 25811)

From: Dominic Richards <drichards@daneseedtrust.org.uk>

Sent: Thursday, 03 September 2026 15:30:30

To: Philip Brunt <Philip.Brunt@hertfordshire.gov.uk>

Cc: Susan Poole <spoole@daneseedtrust.org.uk>

Subject: Re: Sixth Form Capacity

Phil,

as discussed net capacity dated 2025 for CDS

image.png



So net capacity of 1096

- 900 Y7 - 11 (180 each year group)

= 6th form capacity of 196

Thanks

Dom

Dominic Richards

Chief Operating Officer

Danes Educational Trust

T: 01923 589 698 M: 07967821420

drichards@danessedtrust.org.uk

www.danessedtrust.org.uk

C/o St Clement Danes School

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WD3 6EW

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Phil Brunt

Planning Officer, School Planning (West)

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From: Dominic Richards <drichards@danessedtrust.org.uk>

Sent: 03 September 2026 13:51

To: Philip Brunt <Philip.Brunt@hertfordshire.gov.uk>; Susan Poole <spoole@danessedtrust.org.uk>

Subject: Re: Sixth Form Capacity

Hi Phil,

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St Clement Danes: 400

Croxley Danes: 306

Let me know if you need anything further

Dom

Dominic Richards

Chief Operating Officer

Danes Educational Trust

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On Wed, 2 Sept 2026 at 11:25, Philip Brunt <Philip.Brunt@hertfordshire.gov.uk> wrote:

And also for St Clement Danes too, please.

Phil Brunt

Planning Officer, School Planning (West)

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Hertfordshire County Council, Room 145, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN

Telephone: 01992 555811 (Comnet/Internal: 25811)

From: Philip Brunt

Sent: 02 September 2026 11:22

To: Dominic Richards <drichards@daneseedtrust.org.uk>

Subject: Sixth Form Capacity

Morning Dominic,

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If you could let me know by Friday morning (apologies for the quick turnaround) that would be most helpful.

Thanks,

Phil Brunt

Planning Officer, School Planning (West)

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From: [Christopher Martin](#)
To: [Christopher Martin](#)
Subject: RE: Sixth Form Capacity

From: Matthew Fletcher <staff.fletcher@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, 02 September 2026 11:58:52
To: Philip Brunt <Philip.Brunt@hertfordshire.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Sixth Form Capacity

Well..... the plot thickens even further on this one Phil:

We had a NCA in 2021 which concluded 1575 capacity, and hence supported the significant change process.

We then had a DfE NCA in Jan 2025 I think which concluded 1522 (with the usual comments about organisation of rooms, etc.)

So I'm either at capacity or around 53 spaces over capacity..... whichever NCA you choose to believe.

Thanks

Matt Fletcher, Headteacher

Rickmansworth School

Scots Hill

Rickmansworth

WD3 3AQ

On Wed, 2 Sept 2026 at 11:54, Philip Brunt <Philip.Brunt@hertfordshire.gov.uk> wrote:

Nice one, Matt. I take it your physical capacity is also at its maximum then?

Phil Brunt
Planning Officer, School Planning (West)
Children's Services
Postal Point CHO134
Hertfordshire County Council, Room 145, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN

Telephone: 01992 555811 (Comnet/Internal: 25811)

From: Matthew Fletcher <staff.fletcher@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk>

Sent: Wednesday, 02 September 2026 11:51:47

To: Philip Brunt <Philip.Brunt@hertfordshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Sixth Form Capacity

Hi Phil

Hope you're well.

Our Funding Agreement states 315 students in the 6F.

However, during the fast-track significant change process with the then RSC (Joe Farrell), he agreed, in writing, that we could/should admit an additional 30 students this year and an additional 30 next year into the 6F to cope with the 'bulge' as it goes through the school. So that's what I've done.

Hope that makes sense!

Thanks

Matt

Matt Fletcher, Headteacher

Rickmansworth School

Scots Hill

Rickmansworth

WD3 3AQ

On Wed, 2 Sept 2026 at 11:25, Philip Brunt <Philip.Brunt@hertfordshire.gov.uk> wrote:

Morning Matt,

Hope you're keeping well and raring to go for the new year.....

We're giving evidence at a development inquiry and would like to know the current sixth form capacity at Rickmansworth (maximum number of sixth form students you

can admit).

If you could let me know by Friday morning (apologies for the quick turnaround) that would be most helpful.

Thanks,

Phil Brunt

Planning Officer, School Planning (West)

Children's Services

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