

Principal:
Chris Reynolds

Executive Principal:
Helen Winn



To: All Archbishop Sentamu Academy Parents/Carers

12th January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Consultation - Proposed Significant Change 'Closure of Sixth Form' from September 2024

The sixth form at Archbishop Sentamu Academy has provided our students with a high quality of education since its inception. It has prepared students for higher education, employment and training with many of our leavers going on to study at university and has been an important part of the school to date.

Over the last few years, falling numbers in the sixth form have meant that it has become less viable to run. With a heavy heart, we are writing to formally notify you of the Trust Board's decision to commence a consultation period with regard to a proposed 'Significant Change' to close the sixth form provision within our school from September 2024. This consultation period is for a period of 4 weeks from the date of this letter. All responses received during the consultation will be seriously considered before the Trust Board makes a final decision to send a business case for closure to the Department for Education.

Should the change be approved by the Department for Education, following consultation, it would be our intention that sixth form students in years 12 and 13, who have just started a two year course, would be given the opportunity to complete this at Archbishop Sentamu Academy. There will be no reduction to the sixth form this academic year and we will ensure that our current students continue to receive high quality provision and support.

Our students in years 10 and 11 receive high quality careers advice and guidance and we ensure that all students are supported during their transition to post-16 education and/or training, including visits to other sixth forms and further education providers.

The rationale for closure is as follows:

- There are a number of other sixth forms and further education providers within the City of Hull and County of East Riding of Yorkshire, providing excellent opportunities for high quality educational experiences for post-16 learners.
- The sixth form currently has 91 students with an average class size of 5.5 students. For the 6th form to be viable, we would need to have an average class size of at least 15 students. To achieve this the number of courses we could run would have to be reduced which would significantly limit the educational experience and choices for our students in the sixth form.
- The projected costs of continuing with a sixth form will have a negative financial impact on educational provision for all of our students.

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- As a Trust we need to ensure that resources, including finances, leadership, management and educational expertise, are allocated effectively to improve educational standards and outcomes for the majority of students at the school.

This decision is not one that has been taken lightly and follows a comprehensive review.

You are invited to attend a public consultation meeting at the school on Thursday 1st February 2024 at 7:00pm where you will have the opportunity to share your views and/or queries regarding the proposal.

Alternatively we would welcome your feedback by emailing hello@hslt.academy on or before the closure of the consultation period on the **8th February 2024**.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Winn
Executive Principal

Chris Reynolds
Principal