

Press Release

The West Norfolk Academies Trust has announced that it will consult with the community of Smithdon High School regarding the opening of Smithdon as an 11-16 Academy later this year.

Andy Johnson, Executive Headteacher of the Trust said;

“A consultation process will allow for all interested parties to air their views and for the Trust to answer any queries or concerns. The key thing is that students know that there are clear pathways for them in Post-16 education. The Trust has a proven track record in delivering outstanding provision for 11-16 Secondary Schools in West Norfolk and has an outstanding academic Sixth Form based at Springwood High School.”

If any interested party would like to submit their views they can either e-mail or write to the trust before Friday 25th November 2016. The Trust will then post a collective response to the issues raised on its website (www.westnorfolkacademiestrust.co.uk).

Please contact:

office@westnorfolkacademiestrust.co.uk

or

West Norfolk Academies Trust

c/o Springwood High School

Queensway

King's Lynn

PE30 4AW

We have included a “Frequently Asked Questions” section below to assist in this process.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What will happen to the existing Smithdon Sixth Form students?*

The Trust has promised that all teaching groups in year 12 and 13 will be maintained and be taught on the Smithdon site. In addition, Smithdon students will have access to further opportunities as part of the West Norfolk Academies Trust. A good example of this was the recent Trust careers fair where students and parents from all of our High Schools had the opportunity to attend.

2. *Why will Smithdon not take any further Sixth Form students when it converts to an academy?*

The current Year 12 at Smithdon has 25 students studying across 13 different subjects. In the current Year 13 six out of the twelve groups have 4 or less students. The group sizes involved are too small to be economically viable and provide an enriched Sixth Form experience overall. The current numbers of students in the main school at Smithdon cannot provide enough students to produce a viable Sixth Form cohort. The Sixth form has also not attracted any external candidates in recent years.

3. *Where will Smithdon students attend for Post-16 in provision in the future?*

Over three quarters of Smithdon's Year 11 students didn't join the Smithdon Sixth Form last year.

The Trust has an outstanding Sixth Form provision based at Springwood High School. Smithdon students will gain first choice access to this provision as part of the Trust. This year we have already had a positive response in terms of applications from Smithdon students.

Smithdon students will have access to other local provision and training providers.

The school is working hard to ensure that every student has a first and second choice Post-16 destination by the end of the Autumn term.

4. *How will students travel to new Sixth Form provision?*

The Trust Sixth Form based at Springwood High School proposes to provide a student paid bus service. Students of families who qualify for Post-16 bursary can pay for the bus pass from their bursary.

There are other local bus services which students can gain a subsidised bus pass to access other post-16 providers via the Local Authority.

5. *Will the school be viable without a Sixth Form provision?*

The Trust already has two successful small 11-16 schools, namely St Clement's High school and Marshland High school. These are both financially viable without their own separate Sixth Form provision.