

Consultation Response to the Proposed Closure of Smithdon Sixth Form

Consultation Format

The consultation window was between Friday 4th November and Friday 25th November 2016.

The consultation was reported by both the Lynn News and the Eastern Daily Press.

Interested parties were requested to either write or e mail to West Norfolk Academies Trust within the given timescale.

Consultation Response

The consultation received 11 individual responses regarding our proposal.

Several of the responses included were received by Smithdon High school prior to the consultation.

The main areas raised by the consultation were as follows (*Trust response in italics*);

1. Concerns regarding the increased travel distance and cost for students to attend post-16 education.

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.

2. Availability of Sixth Form places elsewhere

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.

3. Existing Year 12 Continuity

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.

4. Students like to attend a Sixth Form where they already know the staff

Over three quarters of Smithdon's Year 11 students didn't join the Smithdon Sixth Form last year. The current Sixth Form currently consists of 23 students in year 12 and 16 students in Year 13.

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5. Potential loss of specialist staff

Smithdon has a committed and loyal teaching staff who have embraced becoming an academy with the West Norfolk Academies Trust. The Trust has committed to ensuring that all current Sixth Form students are taught at Smithdon over the next 18 months. The Trust has a proven track record in recruiting and retaining the highest quality staff.

6. 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.