

Dear Parent / Carer,

Ormiston Horizon Academy Sixth Form Consultation

We wanted to write to you today to let you know that we have decided to consult on the future of sixth form provision at Ormiston Horizon Academy.

Under the proposals, the Sixth Form would not take any students from September 2018 onwards and the Sixth Form would close in July 2019, allowing the current Year 12 pupils to complete their courses.

Whilst this would obviously be disappointing, we of course want to hear the views of students, parents and the wider community first and any final decision would as always be taken with the best interests of our students at the front of our minds. Please find the consultation enclosed. Your views are very important to us, so we would like to invite you to send your comments to info@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk before Friday 12th January. Please put 'Sixth Form Closure' in the subject line.

Our academy continues to make strong progress, raising standards across the board and providing an excellent education for all our students. This progress was recognised by Ofsted, rating the academy 'Good' in 2014. This summer, students at the academy also received strong GCSE results with 90% of Year 11 students achieving at least one A* or A or equivalent and some fantastic individual success stories.

As a result of this success, the academy continues to be very popular and indeed was once again over-subscribed for Year 7 entrants starting this academic year.

However, as you may be aware Sixth Form provision at Ormiston Horizon has always been limited and we have always found it harder to recruit students to our sixth form, and our intake has not been increasing at the rate which we had hoped for. Our small Sixth Form only has capacity for 100 students and we currently have just 24 students in Year 12. As students move into Year 13, on average we see a further 10-15% drop in numbers.

Stoke-on-Trent and the immediate surrounding area, has long had an over-supply of excellent sixth form places, and we are not the only education provider in the area to have struggled to bring in enough students. Larger sixth forms in the area are also able to offer a greater breadth and depth of courses than we can, due to the size of our Sixth Form. As a result, many of our Year 11 students already choose to go elsewhere for post-16 provision.

If it is decided that our Sixth Form should close, this would allow the academy to focus on improving outcomes for Years 7 to 11 and providing an excellent education to our students. Those students would of course continue to be able to apply to any of the local post-16 providers, with whom we have historically always maintained good relationships.

At Ormiston Horizon, we seek to provide excellent information, advice and guidance to our students, to ensure every student makes the right choices for them post-16 and we will continue to do so. We are currently working closely with our Year 11 students to support them to make these choices.

If you would like to discuss the proposals in more detail or have any questions about anything outlined in the consultation in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Principal
WR Hughes



Chair of Local Governing Body
J May