

All Saints Catholic College



Consultation on the closure
of the Sixth Form at
All Saints Catholic College

Introduction by the Chair of Governors and Head Teacher of All Saints Catholic College

The Governing Body at All Saints Catholic College with the support of the Diocese and Directors of the Multi Academy trust, following much discussion and with considerable regret, has decided to consult on the proposal not to recruit new Sixth Form students from September 2015.

In effect, the proposal means that the Sixth Form would close when the current Year 12 students complete their studies in August 2016.

The future of school sixth forms has been highlighted in the media over many months, particularly in the light of the budget changes for post-16 funding which have gradually declined over the last two years.

The average sixth form college has around 1,700 students, while the average school sixth form has over 200. Economies of scale apply, so it is more expensive per student for schools to provide sixth form provision and they may have to subsidise them from other funding streams, such as that for 11 to 16-year-olds. The DfE recognises that sixth forms with less than 200 students are at risk of not being viable financially. All Saints Catholic College has 87 students in the sixth form and, in recent years, has never had more than 110.

At All Saints Catholic College, we are unable to provide the breadth of courses, including a wide range of A level subjects, that students need. Consequently, the demand for places in the Sixth Form is limited, with most students in Year 11 choosing to go elsewhere for post-16 provision. Additionally, a small sixth form does not provide a good social experience nor does it prepare students for the larger environment of higher education or the work place. Hence, in making this decision, Governors want the most appropriate and best options for our students.

In changing the age range from 11-18 to 11-16, this will allow resources to be focused on improving outcomes for Years 7 to 11.

This four week consultation period will run from **17 November 2014** until **15 December 2014** and provides all stakeholders with the opportunity to present their opinions.

Your views are important to us, so please either complete and return the attached form by the **15th December 2014** or email school: sixthformconsultation@allsaintscatholiccollege.com

We will be holding a public meeting at All Saints Catholic College on Tuesday 9th December at 7.00 pm and representatives from the Diocese, Multi Academy Trust, Governing Body and school will be on hand to answer individual concerns on a one to one basis.

In their planning for the future strategic direction of the school, the Governors will consider all responses in their final decision for the closure of the Sixth Form.

Father Oliver O'Doherty
Chair of Governors

Mr John Barnes
Head Teacher

November 2014

All Saints Catholic College

Sixth Form closure consultation – some facts and figures

How large is a viable sixth form?

A school or college sixth form has to be large enough to be viable and sustainable in order to be able to provide a wide enough range of high quality courses. It has been recognised that sixth forms with fewer than 200 students are unviable, particularly in the light of the more recent funding changes where sixth form provision is now funded per student, instead of per qualification. The implications of these reforms over the last two years have meant that some providers have been forced to cut courses whilst others have been forced to close.

All Saints Catholic College, with a provision for a maximum of 150 students and, in reality, never having had more than 129 in the sixth form (87 currently this year) is not a viable sixth form and would have to be funded from other funding streams such as that for the 11-16 phase.

How many students choose the Sixth Form at All Saints Catholic College?

All Saints Catholic College has always had a small sixth form, even in the days before it became an Academy.

In our Academy Funding Agreement we have provision for accepting 150 sixth form students. In reality, the number has been far less than this since we became an Academy in June 2013.

Number of students on roll in the Sixth Form at All Saints Catholic College			
	Year 12	Year 13	Total
Sep 2011	72	57	129
Sep 2012	68	41	109
Sep 2013	65	26	91
Sep 2014	52	35	87

For a number of years, the majority of our Year 11 students have chosen to pursue post-16 education at an institution other than All Saints Catholic College. The school is unable to offer the breadth of subjects or levels that students would like to follow. This means that students must either go elsewhere or pick from a limited range offered, rather than choose what they would either like to do, or would be more suited to, in preparation for Higher Education or employment.

What would this mean for the current Year 12 students?

Students in Year 12 would be unaffected by this proposal. They would progress, as normal, into Year 13 to complete their A level education at All Saints Catholic College.

What would this mean for the current Year 11 students?

Students in Year 11 would be unable to continue their post-16 education at All Saints Catholic College.

What is the range of courses on offer from some of the other providers in an acceptable 'travel to learn' radius?

The strong Tameside sixth form provision, delivered by schools and colleges, has the economy of scale to offer a wide range of qualifications, at varying levels. Such diversity within different institutions offers course suited to all abilities and learner needs.

All Saints Catholic College offers 21 Level 3 courses, predominantly A levels, as well as a number of Enrichment & IAG option for all students including work experience placements and focused support with UCAS applications.

The growth of other school sixth forms and sixth form colleges has led to good quality, affordable provision in the wider area, with an increase in curricular choices and a good range of excellent facilities to support leavers. Across Tameside pathways for all students are catered for. Audenshaw School provides a model similar to All Saints offering a limited selection of Level 3 A Level courses with larger Sixth Form colleges of Ashton and Clarendon offering a range of courses from Level 1 to Level 3.

For those wishing to continue their education in a Catholic setting, Aquinas college in Stockport offers a full range of post-16 courses from Level 1 to Level 3 and both Xaverian College and Loreto College based in Manchester are viable alternatives.

Future post-16 provision for Year 11 students at All Saints Catholic College

All Saints Catholic College is in consultation with a number of post-16 providers to ensure that there is good curriculum provision for current and subsequent Year 11 students.

Implications for school staff

The closure of the sixth form provision at All Saints Catholic College would mean a reduction in the number of staff and this would be part of an on-going process over the next two years.

All Saints Catholic College School Governing Body's proposal

The Governing Body of All Saints Catholic College is proposing to close the Sixth Form to new students from September 2015 onwards by changing the upper age limit from 18 to 16 years. Provision for the current Year 12 students would be maintained and protected. All courses for the current Year 12 students would be continued through to their completion in June/July 2016. This means that the Sixth Form would finally close after the current Year 12 students complete their studies in August 2016 and All Saints Catholic College would be a school for secondary students ages 11-16 years.

The Governing Body welcomes your views during the consultation period which runs for four weeks from Monday 17th November to Monday 15th December 2014

You may respond to the consultation by either completing the Response Form on the next two pages, or by letter or by e-mailing sixthformconsultation@allsaintscatholiccollege.com All responses should be sent, or handed in, to All Saints Catholic College by Monday 15th December 2014.

Response sheet

Your views about the proposed closure of the Sixth Form at All Saints Catholic College

Please use this space to tell us your views about the proposed closure of the Sixth Form at All Saints Catholic College.

This section asks you for some information that will help us analyse the results of the responses and to see who has taken part. You will not be identified by any of the information you provide.

I am a: (Please tick ✓ and complete all those that apply to you)

Parent/carer

Your child's/children's school(s):

.....

.....

Student

Your school:

.....

Governor Your school:

Staff member Your school:

Local resident Please tell us:
.....

Catholic

Other Please tell us:
.....