

4th September 2024

Dear parents and carers

The formal Consultation regarding the proposal to undertake a phased closure of the Sixth Form provision at Clyst Vale Community College closed on the 12th July 2024. We would like to thank everyone who read the Consultation and responded, either in person or in writing, and for the thoughtful and considered responses around what we recognise is for many a difficult and emotive matter.

Of the 36 written responses received, 5 (14%) were in support of the proposal, while 31 (86%) were opposed. We are grateful that respondents read the consultation document objectively, understood the reasons for making the proposal and engaged constructively with the process. Your respectful dialogue, even in disagreement, has been greatly appreciated during this challenging and difficult time.

The Governing Board has carefully considered all views, comments and suggestions. While we fully acknowledge the concerns and disappointment expressed by many respondents at the prospect of losing Post 16 provision at the College, nothing was presented that altered our firm belief that the phased closure of the Sixth Form is essential for ensuring the future success of the College. Therefore, the Governing Board has decided to proceed to the next stage of the process and make a submission to the Department of Education for the phased closure of the Sixth Form at Clyst Vale.

Many respondents voiced concerns about the potential negative impact this decision might have on the unique character of the College. I want to emphasise that our decision to proceed is made with the intent to safeguard and enhance what makes our College special and allow us to improve the quality of education for our 11-16 students and contribute to the College's financial stability, thereby protecting it from future vulnerabilities. The College has thrived in recent years, with a distinctive culture and ethos that promotes a safe and happy learning environment. Our responsibility is not only to preserve this but also to build upon it for the future.

We want to reiterate that this proposal will not affect students currently enrolled in our Sixth Form. The current Year 12 students will continue into Year 13 without any changes or disruptions to their studies. All current students will continue to be nurtured, challenged, and inspired to achieve their very best. If our submission to the Department for Education is successful, there will be no new Sixth Form admissions after this year.

We also recognise that a significant portion of the responses came from parents and carers of Year 11 students who had hoped their child would attend the Sixth Form. We want to reassure you that the College will fully support these students as they explore alternative post-16 options, should the decision to close the Sixth Form be approved.

Thank you once again for your engagement throughout this process. While it has not been possible to respond to each submission individually, we have included an FAQ sheet with this letter that addresses the key points and questions raised.

Yours faithfully,



Sara Jacobs

Principal