

October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Doncaster Collegiate Sixth Form – Response to the Doncaster Council Post 16 Review Consultation

In September 2017, a review of the Post 16 provision in Doncaster was conducted and the recommendations of the review have been put to the Principals of all Doncaster Secondary Schools to develop a new curriculum offer for Doncaster. The review has been published on the Doncaster Council website and can be found here: <http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/post-16-review-2018>

The main recommendations of the review are as follows:

1. Consolidation of school sixth forms In Doncaster
2. Inclusion
3. Extending careers education, information, advice and guidance
4. Strengthening the vocational routes into employment and higher education

In the last two years we have seen the closure of Sixth Forms at Armthorpe, Mexborough and Hayfield and the opening of New College in the south of the borough.

Delta Academies Trust has been a key stakeholder in the Post 16 review and have offered a number of solutions and curriculum models to the Doncaster Secondary Principals to consider. We have proposed that Sixth Forms become Specialist Academies, such as the existing Sports Academy at Astrea Academy Woodfields or the Football Academy at Campsmount Academy or to specialise in A Levels.

Our Sixth Forms

In 2011 Doncaster Collegiate Sixth Form opened, a collaboration between Ash Hill, De Warrene, Don Valley, Rossington All Saints, St Wilfrid's and Selby Park Academies and our Apprenticeship and College partners. The Sixth Form curriculum was designed to ensure that we have an inclusive Sixth Form that can support students of all abilities and aspirations.

As our response to the review commissioned by Doncaster Council, we would now like to take the next natural step for our Sixth Form and centralise the provision. This would be located in an accessible place for all of our students and the communities that we serve to access, creating a new Sixth Form College for Doncaster. We believe that by centralising Doncaster Collegiate Sixth Form into one location, we will provide a new specialist centre for Post 16 students, where teaching can be delivered in a way that is conducive for Sixth Form students.

We would intend that our admissions policy would give priority to all Delta Academy students and any other Doncaster School that may wish to support the new Sixth Form College. Doncaster currently has three 11-16 Secondary Schools that do not have a Sixth Form.

As well as the review, we are also in a situation where all of our Academies have a rising number of students applying for places in Year 7 and very soon we will be limited for space to be able to teach them. By moving

the Sixth Form to a central college this will allow the academies to be able to grow and meet the demand from parents for Lower School places.

We are committed to raising the aspirations of our students and it is our intention that we would continue to work with our partners in both Further and Higher Education to ensure that our students are able to contribute to the economic success of Doncaster and the wider Sheffield City Region.

We are also committed to Independent Advice & Guidance through our relationship with Careers Inc. If your son or daughter would prefer to study A Levels in a School Sixth Form, rather than a College, we will be creating alliances with neighbouring schools to ensure that our students have solid successful options at Post 16.

We see natural local A Level Sixth Form partners as follows.

- Ash Hill Academy
- Don Valley Academy
- De Warenne Academy
- Rossington All Saints Church of England Academy
- Trinity Academy
- Ridgewood School
- Sir Thomas Wharton Academy
- The McAuley Catholic School

There will also be changes to the Vocational Pathways available to students, and we would also support our students in applying to any one of the new Specialist Vocational Sixth Forms (Sport, Creative Media, Business, Travel, and Performing Arts etc.) or the new University Technical College to study Engineering or Advanced Manufacturing.

If you would like to discuss the review, our proposal and the proposed changes to Doncaster as a whole, I will be available at Ash Hill on Tuesday 23rd October from 2:30 to 3:00pm.

There will be another opportunity to discuss these developments at our Aspirations Evening on Tuesday 13th November, from 5:30 to 7:30pm.

We will also be holding a central Careers & Aspirations Day on Friday 23rd November 2018 where we are inviting all parents and careers to spend some time at The National Rail College at Lakeside to speak to local providers and employers about next steps opportunities for your son or daughter.

Alternatively, please feel free to contact us via e-mail or by telephone using the contact details above.

Yours sincerely



Jamie McMahon
Regional Director of Post 16 Education