

October 2023



Re: Bridgnorth 6th form Consultation

The formal Consultation regarding Bridgnorth 6th Form has now closed, we would like to thank all stakeholders for sharing their views and taking time to provide written feedback or by attending the consultation evening. Please see below feedback and outcomes from the process and related discussions:

1. Feedback from our consultation outlined a general understanding and acceptance of the challenges facing our school-based 6th Form, and acceptance that closure was a real prospect. Although this was accepted, it was also raised by several throughout the process that there was concern regarding transport provision for families who may live in more rural locations, with potential increased complexity and cost for a potential journey to an alternative chosen provider.

Action: The school continues to work with all partners and the Local Authority to share these concerns and work hard to ensure that transport remains at the forefront of any actions moving forward.

2. We have engaged in conversations with all the major post-16 providers who have previously worked with students from Oldbury Wells School to ensure that our students have good awareness of the range of qualifications available to them and how each organisation can support their next steps in education.

Action: There have already been many talks and presentations from external post-16 providers in school which are due to continue. We have invited all current Year 10 & 11 students into school on Thursday, 9th November for a 'Post-16 Pathways Evening' where families can attend school to gain further information about a wide range of options.

3. Our consultation enabled us to explore potential formal partnerships with the aim of considering a continued post-16 offer within the Bridgnorth area.

Action: We are delighted to be able to outline that we have undertaken some initial work in partnership with Telford College and Bridgnorth Endowed School to look at the feasibility of an offer which would give provision for all families within our locality, linking to the exciting development at Telford College and their recently announced Sixth Form provision to be located at the Station Quarter in Telford Town Centre; more information about this exciting project can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3tQeuKi>.

This potential partnership would provide a wider 6th form offer and link directly with the provision at Telford College.

4. Decisions regarding current school-based 6th form provision: Following the consultation period our leadership team, Trust Board and Governors have made the difficult decision to close our school-based provision from September 2025. We have carefully considered the details which were outlined in the original consultation papers, alongside feedback given throughout the consultation period.

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Action: This decision has been communicated to the Department for Education who will review all paperwork and if supported will give final approval before the end of the calendar year. The decision will not impact on our current Year 12 and Year 13 students, with all the normal provision and supportive practices remaining in place until the end of their studies. There will be no new intake into the current school based 6th form provision in September 2024.

Although this decision will be disappointing for many, the decision ensures that we can continue to support all our students within their development both within our secondary setting and then moving onto post-16 pathways. The exploration of further partnership working also creates the opportunity for something new which would potentially support post-16 and adult education in the Bridgnorth area.

We will continue to provide regular updates in the weeks ahead and ensure that all information is shared at the earliest opportunity.

Yours faithfully



Lee Tristham
Headteacher