

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College



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8th May 2019

Dear Parent/Carers

Sixth Form Consultation

The full Governing Body met on Thursday 2nd May to consider the consultation response and arising issues following the announcement of the consultation for proposed closure.

It is with a deep sense of regret that the decision was made to close our Sixth Form provision from September. The Governors wish to ensure that all current Year 12 students are provided with a high-quality learning experience for September 2019 and where this is still possible commit to doing this at Saints Peter and Paul.

Governors would like to take this opportunity to thank those who contributed to the consultation via the written and/or attendance at the public meeting. All 43 responses were presented to the Governing Body and they deliberated the key issues raised:

- **Timing of the consultation**

Governors acknowledge that the timing of the consultation decision was late in the school year. Unfortunately, this was unavoidable as this was an emerging issue following two rounds of Year 11 interviews which were completed to suggesting insufficient intake numbers despite marketing and publicity drives. It became clear following the final round of Year 11 interviews that the proposed numbers and subject demand was not sufficient to run key courses.

The College has worked very closely with Cronton Sixth Form College and Carmel College to ensure all Year 11 students have an offer of learning or destination following the announcement of the consultation period to ensure all had a backup option.

- **Current Year 12**

The most difficult decision was around the current Year 12 students. It is important to note that since the announcement of Sixth Form consultation a number of teachers, including key A Level teachers, have sought and secured new jobs in either Sixth Form Colleges or schools for September 2019. This has affected both teacher expertise and staffing capacity. Additionally, a number of current Year 12s have also decided to move on to other Sixth Form colleges regardless of the outcome for September affecting the very small class numbers.

Governors were keen to establish what educational provision could be offered in terms of class size, available teacher periods, teacher expertise and educational experience for each course and every student. After carefully considering all options, the Governors concluded to delay full closure and continue to Year 13 where we have the capacity within the courses below:

- BTEC Health and Social Care (3 A Level course)
- BTEC Business Studies (3 A Level course)

Senior staff have been working very closely with Cronton Sixth Form College and Carmel College since the announcement of the consultation to ensure that all students have options if the decision was closure. As a result, 20 out of 27 Year 12 students have their preference course and place for September. The vast majority of the 19 students choosing to stay on the above courses at Saints Peter and Paul.

The remaining 7 A Level students have either offers to stay with us and transfer onto a BTEC course, or offers for other courses at Cronton Sixth Form College and Carmel College. Additionally, the students have the option in some subjects to complete an AS Level qualification at the end of this academic year.

To support any transition, Governors have committed to our Sixth Form Mentor working with students at Cronton Sixth Form College and Carmel College throughout the transition and have offered to support the cost of coach transport to Carmel College.

- **The unique Pastoral Care and Catholic context**

The benefit of senior staff working closely with Cronton Sixth Form College and Carmel College is that we have been able to experience working with key pastoral staff. Whilst the settings are larger, we did find a wealth of pastoral care to support student well-being. The Catholic ethos of Carmel College was tangible within the College and in all the work we did with their staff.

- **Current Year 7 to 11 students and limited choice**

It is with regret that the Governors are in a position to close a historically thriving and successful Sixth Form which stands as a tradition in many families. Unfortunately, we are not alone in our decline both locally and nationally school sixth forms are finding themselves in an unviable position; unable to complete with the facilities, curriculum offer and quality of educational provision that Sixth Form Colleges are now offering.

We now have very strong links with Cronton Sixth Form College and Carmel College and remain committed to post-16 education for our students. We will endeavour to forge strong partnerships with both colleges to ensure that students are introduced early in their school career to enable a high-quality and natural progression into high-quality post-16 education.

Closure of the Sixth Form has been the hardest decision Governors have had to make in the history of the College. In arriving at the decision Governors concluded that the College can no longer provide post-16 education to the standard that all our students deserve and recognise that they would be better served by our two very strong feeder Sixth Form Colleges.

The Governors hope that students, parents/carers and the local community will understand that there were sadly no other viable options available to us.

Yours sincerely

Mr Jim Wilson
Chair of Governors
On behalf of the Governors