

Dear Families,

Following my previous letter earlier this term, I want to update you on the recent consultation regarding the proposal to change Honiton Community College's age range from 11-18 to 11-16.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to attend the Consultation Drop-In session and submit formal feedback. We received 27 responses from a range of voices, including current and former sixth-form students, families, local councillors, and the Local Authority.

After the consultation period closed, our Trust Board (as the school's admissions authority) met to carefully review all the feedback. In making their decision, they considered:

- The 27 formal responses,
- Feedback from the drop-in session, and
- Comments from the parent survey completed earlier this term.

The Outcome of the Consultation:

After thoughtful consideration, the Trust Board has decided to proceed with the application to close the Sixth Form, the proposed change would take effect from August 2025. As part of this an admission variation will be submitted this week for the academic years 2024-25 and 2025-26. We have updated our consultation website [here](#).

We understand how strongly some members of our community feel about this decision, and we deeply appreciate the respectful way these views were shared. We value the thoughtful feedback shared during the consultation, which the Board carefully considered when making their decision. Ultimately the Board concluded that, to ensure the long-term success and stability of the College, the difficult decision to close the sixth form should proceed.

Why This Change is Necessary:

The current size of the Sixth Form means that we are unable to provide students with the broad, enriching post-16 education they deserve. We want every student to have access to the best possible opportunities, and that is not something we can sustainably offer with such low numbers.

For over ten years, the number of students enrolling in our Sixth Form has been unsustainably low. A survey conducted last summer confirmed that this trend is unlikely to change, with projected class sizes falling well below the Department for Education's recommended levels. This would further limit our ability to offer a diverse range of subjects to our students.

In recent years, the College has had to redirect a significant amount of funding from students in KS3 and KS4 to keep the Sixth Form running. We do not believe it is fair to compromise the education of younger students in this way.

What Happens Next:

Although the Trust Board has made the decision to move forward with the age range change, the final decision on whether to close the Sixth Form will rest with the Department for Education following our application for an admission variation.

If the closure is approved, we want to assure you that the College will be fully committed to supporting all affected students and families as they explore alternative post-16 options.

Further Information:

We know that this is difficult news for some, and we are grateful for your engagement throughout this process. To help answer any further questions, we have created an FAQ document based on the key themes raised during the consultation, which you can access [here](#).

Thank you again for your understanding and continued support as we make decisions that we believe are in the best long-term interest of the entire school community.

Best wishes,

Caroline and Moira

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CJB', written in a cursive style.

Caroline Brothwood

Principal, Honiton Community College

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Marder', written in a cursive style.

Moira Marder,

CEO, Ted Wragg Trust