

24th September 2024

Dear Families,

Re: HCC Post 16 – consultation regarding the phase closure of the Sixth Form provision

Following Mr. Kirkbride's email to families on 23rd July, as a school, we have been working closely with colleagues from across our Trust to carefully consider the next steps for our Post 16 or Sixth Form provision. This has included looking carefully at the outcomes of the survey conducted during the Summer term with all families of students then in Years 9 and 10, where we gathered insights into their intentions for post-16 education.

You may recall that the survey results indicated that only 22 Year 10 students expressed interest in remaining at HCC for Sixth Form. When we further analysed their subject preferences and mapped these to the best possible option blocks, it became clear that the class size for 2025 would be around five students. This falls significantly below the Department for Education guidelines and limits our ability to provide a high-quality academic and enriching experience for our young people.

Additionally, with very low numbers currently in our Post 16 provision (38 in Year 13 and none in Year 12) and the survey showing that these numbers are unlikely to increase substantially in the coming years, we are today formally launching a consultation regarding the phased closure of the Sixth Form. This consultation will remain open for the next three weeks, closing at midnight on Tuesday 15th October.

We want to emphasise that this decision has not been made lightly. Honiton Community College is a unique and proud school, deeply rooted in the community of Honiton and also serving the surrounding areas. As a staff team, we are committed to creating a nurturing, supportive environment where all our students can thrive, both academically and socially. Our Post 16 Centre has been an important part of our school, but without a viable number of students choosing to attend, it has become financially unsustainable. Continuing to run it would divert critical resources that should instead be invested in supporting our 11-16 students (Years 7-11), whose needs are also our priority. We have a duty to ensure all of our students are ready for and informed about the next phase of their education and we remain committed to supporting them, as always, with finding the right place for their aims and needs.

We understand that this news may bring disappointment and concern to many of our current students and families. Please know that this decision has been driven by our desire to ensure the long-term success and wellbeing of all our students. During this consultation period, we encourage you to share your thoughts and any concerns you may have. We are here to listen and support you through this process.

You can find more information regarding the consultation process, why we feel this is a necessary process, and next steps on our website here:

[Ted Wragg Multi-Academy Trust - Honiton Community College - Sixth Form Consultation \(tedwraggtrust.co.uk\)](https://tedwraggtrust.co.uk)

We have set up a specific email address to receive formal responses to our consultation so please direct any responses to honitonconsultation@tedwraggtrust.co.uk

Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we navigate this challenging but necessary step to ensure the success and achievement for both the current and future students at Honiton Community College.

Once the consultation has closed and the Board of Trustees has met to review feedback, we will write again.

Warm regards,



Caroline Brothwood
Principal



Ann Denner
Chair of Governors