



# St Monica's R.C. High School and 6th Form Centre

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1st December 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

## St Monica's Sixth Form Centre Proposal for Closure Consultation Document

Following extensive discussions, the Governing Body of St Monica's RC High School and Sixth Form Centre have reached the decision to consult on the closure of the Sixth Form Centre in August 2018.

### Rationale for the proposal to close the Sixth form Centre

The national picture for School Sixth Forms has been highlighted in the media over many months with particular reference to the changes to post 16 funding which has declined over the past two years. Sixth form courses are now funded per student, instead of per qualification with the result being that over the past two years some providers have been forced to reduce courses or close completely. In a difficult economic environment schools are facing budget constraints and St Monica's is no different.

The average Sixth Form College has around 1700 students on roll, while the average school Sixth Form has 200. The Department for Education (DfE) recognises that Sixth Forms under 200 struggle to provide the same level of provision as it is more expensive per student to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum making courses financially unviable. In the table below you can see the Year 12 admission numbers since opening.

Academic Year	Year 12 Admission Numbers
2011-12	62
2012-13	37
2013-14	47
2014-15	58
2015-16	47
2016-17	27

St Monica's Sixth Form Centre has worked extremely hard to rebrand, recruit, and improve course options, working with the local community, industry providers and other Sixth Form colleges to increase the admission numbers to no avail.

St Monica's Sixth Form Centre is limited in its recruitment from the main school due to the fact the majority of the school's students wish to study A Levels or experience a new environment by studying elsewhere. We have consulted previous year 11 cohorts and some of the responses are below:

- They seek a breadth of A Levels to study. This is impossible for us to accommodate.
- The social aspect they seek at Sixth Form would not be possible at St Monica's Sixth Form.
- Larger institutions attract a wider intake with their ability to offer free gym memberships and free transport.



We are concerned that, as we are not confident that the numbers required can be attracted on a consistent basis, the Sixth Form provision itself will cease to become financially sustainable.

### **Key Stage 3 and 4**

We are also seeing higher demand for places at Key Stage 3 which is a result of increased birth rates and migration over recent years. To revert back to an 11-16 school will allow resources to be focused on improving the learning experiences and outcomes for years 7-11 in the main school.

- The proposal will not impact at all on Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils.

### **The impact on our Sixth Form Students**

If the proposed closure goes ahead, there would be no new admissions in September 2017 and the Sixth Form would close in August 2018.

Therefore, none of the current students will be affected, as they will complete their qualifications and will move on to University, further education, apprenticeships or employment.

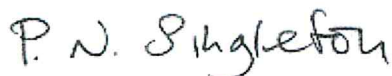
- The Current Year 12 students will not be affected. The Sixth Form staff will continue to help, support the students to make the best career decision possible with their qualification.
- Our Year 13 and 14 students will complete their qualifications in August 2017 and move on to university, further education, apprenticeships or employment.

### **The Consultation**

A four-week period of consultation will run from 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 to 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 and provides all stakeholders with the opportunity to respond to the consultation. Your views are important to us, and during the period of the consultation you will have the opportunity to discuss the proposal in any level of detail. We are committed to making this process as transparent and fair to all parties as possible, in line with our Mission Statement.

Representatives from St Monica's Sixth Form Centre and the Governing body will be available to answer individual concerns on a one to one basis at a meeting for parents/carers and students on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017, St Monica's Sixth Form Centre Lecture Theatre at 4.00 pm.

Yours sincerely



P N Singleton  
Chair of Governors