

To: All Cottingham High School Parents/Carers

20<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Consultation - Proposed Significant Change 'Closure of Sixth Form' from September 2025**

The sixth form at Cottingham High School, part of The Consortium Sixth Form College, has prepared students for higher education, employment and training with many of our students going on to study at university and has been an important part of the school to date.

Over the last few years, falling numbers in the sixth form have meant that it may no longer be viable to run. It is deeply disappointing that we are writing to formally notify you of the decision to commence a consultation period with regard to a proposed 'Significant Change' to close the sixth form provision within our school from September 2025.

This consultation period is for a period of 4 weeks from the date of this letter and no decision will be reached until consultation has concluded. The consultation will take place with our stakeholders and affected employees. All responses received during the consultation will be seriously considered before a final decision is taken to send a business case for closure to the Department for Education. Should the change be approved by the Department for Education, following consultation, it would be our intention that sixth form students in year 12, who have just started a two-year course, will continue their education at The Consortium Sixth Form College – Hessle and Wolfreton Campus.

If the proposed closure is confirmed, following consultation, there will be no reduction to the sixth form this academic year and we will ensure that our current students continue to receive high quality provision and support. Our students in years 10 and 11 receive high quality careers advice and guidance and we ensure that all students are supported during their transition to post-16 education and/or training, including visits to other sixth forms and further education providers. These students can also continue their studies within The Consortium Academy Trust at The Consortium Sixth Form College (Hessle and Wolfreton Campus).

The rationale for the proposed closure which will be discussed during consultation is as follows:

- There are several other sixth forms and further education providers within the City of Hull and County of East Riding of Yorkshire, providing excellent opportunities for high quality educational experiences for post-16 students.
- The majority of our Year 11 students are not opting to stay at the Sixth Form. There are currently 32 students in Year 13 and 8 in Year 12; and having recently canvassed interest from our current Year 11 students there are only 12 interested in staying.
- In view of the diminishing numbers, the projected costs of continuing with a sixth form will have a negative financial impact on educational provision for all of our students.

- We need to ensure that resources, including finances, leadership, management and educational expertise, are allocated effectively to improve educational standards and outcomes for the majority of students at the school.

Our position in respect of our sixth form provision at Cottingham is not one that has been taken lightly and follows a comprehensive review by the Trust.

We would welcome your feedback by emailing [communications@consortiumtrust.co.uk](mailto:communications@consortiumtrust.co.uk) on or before the closure of the consultation period on the 18th October 2024. We will separately engage with staff who are affected by the proposed change and ensure that our consultation obligations are fully discharged prior to any final decision being reached.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Kerby



Headteacher

Mr M Brown



Executive Director of Education