

Summary of the consultation process in respect of Godalming College proposal to dissolve and convert to a 16-19 Academy (SAT)

The Proposal

The Governing Body Corporation has proposed to dissolve Godalming Sixth Form College (“the College”) and transfer its property, rights and liabilities to a new Academy Trust. This is in effect a conversion of the College’s legal status through dissolution rather than a discontinuation of current provision.

The Consultation

The consultation started on Wednesday 1st March 2017 and closed on Wednesday 19th April 2017. A consultation document provided details about the proposal and the rationale for the proposed change. Details of how to respond were made clear in this document. Responses were invited from a wide range of stakeholders:

- Current students and parents
- Staff
- Governors
- The Local Authority
- Local schools and colleges
- Local MPs
- The Secretary of State for Education
- Regional Schools Commissioner

Access was provided to the formal consultation and proposal on the College website. A statutory notice was placed in a national paper, The Guardian and a local paper, The Surrey Advertiser. Comments were invited, via e-mail or letter, on any aspect of the proposal. All staff were invited to come along to drop in sessions regarding the consultation and the Employment Committee has been briefed. All students and parents were e-mailed and sent a copy of the Consultation and invited to respond. The Student Union were also briefed on the consultation. The local schools in the Waverley Federation have been regularly updated at Heads meetings.

Summary of responses

The College received a total of 5 responses to its consultation:

- 1 response asked for clarification regarding implications for staff terms and conditions. It was confirmed that these would not change.
- 1 response in support of academisation from the Waverley Federation Director, citing the rationale clearly has the best interests of students and the community at its heart.
- 1 response from a parent suggesting it wasn’t a great idea as we would lose more control if funded and accountable directly to government rather than the local authority. We have been an independent Sixth Form College directly accountable to

and funded by the government/EFSA since 1992. We are not under the remit of the local authority. Therefore, the reason not to academise because we would come out of local authority control isn't an issue.

- 1 response from the DfE noting the receipt of the consultation and statutory information and confirming they look forward to working with the College on the academisation process
- 1 response requesting more information about the College and, when published a copy of the consultation response summary. Further information about the College was provided and a copy of this response will be provided.

Conclusion

Although the response to the Consultation has been minimal, there is nothing that has arisen from the responses received that would cause the Corporation, at this stage, to reconsider its plans to convert to a 16-19 Academy. Governors would like to thank those who took the time to respond to the consultation. The final decision on conversion will be taken in due course.