

Trinity Academy Halifax (TAH)

Consultation on proposed significant change to an open academy

Academy background

TAH is an 11-19 secondary academy in the heart of the North Halifax community. When the academy opened in 2010, its pupil admission number (PAN) was 180 students in each year group. In 2012, the academy moved to a new purpose built site, which allowed for an increase in the PAN to 240. A year later the academy increased its PAN to 300 to accommodate the closure of the nearby St Catherine's Catholic High School (SCCHS).

Since it was established, TAH has:

- been judged by Ofsted as outstanding in all areas
- become a Teaching School (Trinity Teaching School Alliance)
- become a Maths Hub of excellence (West Yorkshire Maths Hub)
- had consistently strong academic outcomes in both 6th Form and Key Stage 4

For a number of years, TAH has been heavily oversubscribed, receiving over 400 first choice parental preferences and over 700 preferences in total. This has meant that, for the last three years, over 30 students who live directly within the catchment area have not been able to secure a place at the academy. In addition to this, with the improved results of our Year 11 students and their raised aspirations, we now have a higher number of students wishing to stay within the academy to study Level 3 qualifications; however, due the limited capacity (300 students) we are unable to accommodate them. This also impacts on students from outside the academy who are eager to enrol with us.

LA context

We have been working in partnership with the local authority to meet its strategic need for additional secondary school places. A crucial part of this significant change will see TAH increase its PAN to 330 students per year. At the same time, also as part of the above partnership, both Rastrick High School (RHS) and Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge (TASB) will increase their PAN by 45 and 30 places respectively.

Proposal

We are consulting on our intention to expand our 6th Form provision (currently at a maximum of 300 students) and relocate it to Halifax town centre from 2019. The 6th Form would, in the first instance, have the capacity for up to 600 students in total (300 students in each year group).

We believe it would bring numerous benefits to the local community, including:

- It will allow TAH to increase its PAN to 330, therefore addressing the local need for additional secondary places.
- It will allow us to offer a more expansive Level 3 curriculum.
- It will allow for more places for TAH students coming through from Year 11.
- It will provide priority places to all secondary schools without a 6th Form provision.
- Being centrally based it means that transport links are substantial.

The intention would be to house the 6th Form in existing LA buildings which are empty. They will be significantly refurbished and are near to both bus and train stations; these works will be funded by the LA. We then intend to use Trinity Multi Academy Trust funds to adapt the current 6th Form building at TAH into a Year 7 area. This would provide Year 7 students with a transition year in their own space, whilst still being able to access the main building for

communal activities and specialist sports facilities. We believe this achieves a number of objectives:

- It allows for more student places and meets local need.
- It will relieve the pressure on the main building and reduce congestion at changeovers of lessons etc.
- It allows Year 7 to have a year to acclimatise to secondary education.

Other benefits

RHS is currently consulting on closing its 6th Form, as is TASB, and the students of both organisations (along with any existing 11-16 providers in the authority), will have preferential access to the new provision (via the admission policy).

Furthermore, students who start their 6th Form education at the start of AY2018-19 (a year before the new provision begins), will start in Year 12 at TAH and RHS, then move to the new expanded provision in Year 13. Both academies are working closely together to provide a curriculum that can work for both organisations as they come together, so as to ensure a seamless transition for students involved.

The central location of the new 6th Form centre means that the vast majority of students will have easy access to the new provision (due to well-used road and rail links). Where a student experiences financial hardship, we will utilise a bursary scheme to ensure all have open access to the new facilities.

In summary, the expansion and relocation of the 6th Form will allow us to offer far more young people an outstanding education both at 11-16 and post 16.