

Monday 4th March 2019

Dear stakeholder

In February 2018 Trinity Academy Halifax (TAH), working in partnership with Calderdale Council, successfully applied for permission to expand and relocate its post-16 provision to a newly-refurbished sixth form centre in Halifax. The site is the redeveloped Northgate House (NGH) complex, a multi-million pound investment at the heart of the town centre. The proposal was to expand the provision from the current 300 students to 600, at the same time incorporating students from partner schools that were either closing their own sixth forms or were already providers of 11-16 education only. These schools are Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge, Rastrick High School, Calder High School, Todmorden High School, The Halifax Academy and Park Lane Academy.

In the intervening year, significant progress has been made on the new site and we are excited that this transformational project, which will at last offer Calderdale young people the opportunity of a local sixth form college, is rapidly becoming a reality. Recruitment is at an all-time high, with numerous applications from every secondary school in the local authority.

Latest developments:

In the summer break, the building of The Maltings College (TMC) suffered significant flood damage. TMC is a small 16-19 vocational provider which, like TAH, is also part of the Trinity Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). As a result of the flood, the students from TMC were relocated to TAH for the Academic Year 2018-19, where they have benefited from the outstanding provision on offer and have flourished as a result.

The Board of Directors of Trinity MAT have further considered the future of both TMC and TAH post-16 provision and is proposing the following:

- **The Maltings College** will expand to a new capacity of 600 students.
- It will cease offering vocational courses because they are also on offer to Calderdale young people at the nearby, well-established and highly performing Calderdale College.
- It will instead offer academic courses, replicating the current academic offer at Trinity Academy Halifax.
- It will be rebranded as Calderdale Sixth Form College, and move into the newly-refurbished Northgate House development.
- As a result of this, **Trinity Academy Halifax** will close its post-16 provision (rather than expanding and relocating it).

As the two institutions are in the same MAT, this in effect means very little will change (compared to what was already planned and agreed) e.g. the staff, who currently teach the TAH students and who were going to teach them next year in the new NGH complex, will still do exactly that.

The only difference is that they will be doing it in a 16-19 institution called **Calderdale Sixth Form College** rather than in an 11-18 institution (across a split site) called Trinity Academy Halifax.

The BoD believe that there are a number of significant additional benefits as a result of this proposal:

- The sixth form college will operate as an independent institution, benefiting from it having its own local governing body (LGB) that has a sole focus on the performance of the college. This will also be a benefit for TAH, as its LGB will focus on its performance as an 11-16 provider.
- The senior leadership of the college, which will be the same as the current leadership of the post-16 provision at TAH, will also benefit from the same sole focus.
- Staff will not have to face the challenges that working over a split site (3 miles apart) presents.

Summary:

The table below, which can be accessed via the link immediately underneath it, is taken from the 2018 Department for Education (DfE) Performance Tables for post-16.

- It includes all seven of the state-funded Calderdale secondary schools that will offer a post-16 provision next year
- It is ordered by the academic progress made by all students in 2018
- It clearly shows that Trinity Academy Halifax currently operates the highest-performing academic post-16 provision in the local authority
- It also provides conclusive evidence that the vast majority of academic post-16 provision in the authority remains 'below average'

Key: Red text equates to 'below average' progress (as defined by the DfE league tables)

Position	Institution
1	Trinity Academy Halifax
2	The North Halifax Grammar School
3	The Crossley Heath School
4	Brighouse High School
5	The Brooksbank School
6	Lightcliffe Academy
7	Ryburn Valley High School

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=default&table=schools®ion=381&la-name=calderdale&geographic=la&for=16to18&basedon=Academic%20qualifications&show=All%20students&searchtype=&la-name=calderdale%2Ccalderdale>

This proposal is designed to ensure that Calderdale has its own sixth form college to enable more of its young people to access an outstanding post-16 provision without having to travel outside of the authority. Furthermore, it will be delivered by the same people (leadership team, teaching and support staff) that currently operate the outstanding provision on offer at Trinity Academy Halifax.

Next Steps:

The Trinity MAT will run a consultation process for just over four weeks (from Monday 4th March to Monday 1st April 2019 inclusive) to gather the thoughts of all stakeholders. It will also hold information events on **Thursday 21st March** at 4pm, and again at 6pm, for those stakeholders that would like to discuss specific aspects of this proposal. These will be held at Trinity Academy Halifax (HX2 9TZ).

Any contributions to the consultation process should be directed to Di Alcock at info@trinityacademyhalifax.org or sent to the academy (FAO: Di Alcock) at Trinity Academy Halifax, Shay Lane, Halifax HX2 9TZ.

In the meantime, if there are any questions about any of the above, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Michael Gosling
CEO – Trinity MAT



Nick Robinson
Principal – Trinity Academy Halifax