

6<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Proposal to close Oldbury Academy Sixth Form provision in August 2019.**

As you are probably aware, in September 2018 we were unable to run Year 12 due to insufficient numbers. In part, this was because our students achieved the GCSE grades they needed to move on to their first choice courses at local colleges. Small school based Sixth Forms are under a great deal of pressure and locally a number of schools have already closed their 16-19 provision. Nationally, the DfE require a guarantee of 200 students before they will agree to the creation of a new Sixth Form. This is to give some assurance that the proposal is viable in both financial and educational terms.

After much consideration, we have begun a consultation period with a view of asking the Education Funding Agency for permission to close Oldbury Academy Sixth Form in August 2019. This decision is not based upon the quality of our Sixth Form provision; far from it because the teaching in our Sixth Form leads to progress that is above national average. Our challenge has been trying to provide the breadth of courses that our students wish to study.

In our local area, colleges are able to offer a wider choice of courses and more specialised facilities within reach of our students. Our careers support for all Year 11 students will remain a priority and we will continue to provide our students with information, advice and guidance on how to access and apply to local providers.

If you have any questions please feel free to talk to myself, Ms Payne (Head of Sixth Form) or Ms Wilkins (Careers Manager) at Year 11 parents' evening.

We are now inviting comments on this proposal. If you have any, please either email them to [admin@oldburyacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@oldburyacademy.org.uk) or send/hand them in an envelope marked Sixth Form Consultation into our school reception.

The consultation will finish on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018. All representations and comments will be shared with our Governors before a final decision is taken.

Yours faithfully



Phil Shackleton  
Headteacher