

Proposal to consult on ceasing the provision of Post 16 education at Freebrough Academy.

The governors of Freebrough Academy, with the Trustees of Teesside Learning Trust, following much discussion, have decided to consult on the proposal not to recruit new post 16 students from September 2018. If agreed, the proposal would mean that post 16 provision at Freebrough Academy would close at the end of August 2018. It would only affect post 16 provision and not result in any changes to the rest of the academy.

The future of school post 16 provision has been highlighted in the media for some time, particularly in the light of recent changes in the way post-16 students are funded in schools and colleges. The funding has gradually declined over the last two years and this had particular impact on small post 16 provision. The average post 16 college has around 1,700 students, while the average school post 16 provision has over 200.

Economies of scale apply, so it is more expensive per student for schools to provide a post 16 and they may have to subsidise post 16 students from other funding, such as that for 11 to 16-year-old students. The Department of Education recognises that post 16 provision with less than 200 students are at risk of not being viable financially. Freebrough Academy currently has a total of 2 students in our post 16 provision and, since it was established in September 2011, has never had more than 50.

The current numbers are too small to produce courses that are viable educationally and economically at Freebrough. Also, a small post 16 provision does not provide as broad a social experience, nor is it as easy to prepare students for the wider environment of higher education or the work place.

The number of students registering at Freebrough for post-16 provision has continued to decline and all students leaving Year 11 in summer 2017 chose to register at another establishment. In reaching the decision to consult on the future of post 16, governors want the best options and learning experiences for our students and have concluded that closure is the right option. Changing the age range from 11-18 to 11-16 will allow resources to be focused on improving the learning experiences and outcomes for years 7 to 11 in the main academy. Our aim is to become an outstanding 11-16 academy and to do so we believe that we must concentrate our energies and expertise on that age range.

This consultation will run from **9th October 2017 to 11th December 2017** and will give parents, students, staff and other local stakeholders the opportunity to let us know what they think.

In their planning for the future strategic direction of the academy, the Governors and the Board of Teesside Learning Trust will consider all responses in their final decision about whether or not to close the post 16 provision.

Some information about the position of post 16 education at Freebrough Academy.

When Freebrough Academy was established in September 2010 the funding agreement provided the opportunity for the Academy to set up a 100 place provision to provide Post 16 education centred on business and enterprise, creative and digital media, health and engineering. This was designed to not only provide programmes of study for some of the most vulnerable students and those most likely to find the progression to FE challenging, but to any student who wished to access a future learning pathway in these industry sectors.

In 2012 the Enterprise Centre was built and is central to the delivery of Post 16 education. This includes:

- the creation of a business environment; a place for ‘incubating’ young entrepreneurs in a facility that has an office/business style/feel;
- Personalised Learning Programmes for all students;
- ‘challenges’ for students to undertake, such as internships with business partners and others, establishing a small business/enterprise, etc;
- some light engineering;
- a focus on continuation of their developing skills as independent learning and as ‘adults’ responsibility for project ownership and leadership;

Since its inception the provision has failed to recruit to capacity. This is due to a number of factors including: falling rolls in pre 16 provision and numbers falling from 200 per year group to 112, more capacity in other post 16 provision in Redcar and Cleveland and Middlesbrough that offers a wider curriculum choice and a wider range of social opportunities; students looking for a change of provider at 16 rather than staying with the one they are familiar with and despite a significant amount of engagement a lack of uptake from students in other secondary schools.

Given the demand at pre 16 and the number of teacher hours deployed delivering Post 16 education we are unable to deliver the curriculum in Years 7-11 without recruiting a number of teachers, who won’t be funded by the very low numbers in Post 16 classes. It is evident that the provision is not viable and cannot run without being heavily subsidised by funding received to deliver the Year 7-11 curriculum.

In 2016/17 there were 48 teacher hours provided to deliver Health and Social Care, Engineering, Creative and Digital Media and Enterprise and Entrepreneurship. Additional staff are also required to teach English and maths to those students who haven’t reached the required standard at the age of 16.

In contrast the numbers in pre 16 are increasing and recruitment to year 7 at an all-time high of 204 in September 2017.

2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Yr 7 120 (2014)	Yr 7 169 (actual)	Yr 7 160 (Oct 16 census)	Yr 7 204 (actual)	Yr 7 200	Yr 7 200	Yr 7 190
Yr 8 119 (2013)	Yr 8 130 (+10)	Yr 8 169	Yr 8 159	Yr 8 204	Yr 8 200	Yr 8 200
Yr 9 117 (2012)	Yr 9 119	Yr 9 132	Yr 9 167	Yr 9 160	Yr 9 204	Yr 9 200
Yr 10 133 (2011)	Yr 10 117	Yr 10 117	Yr 10 124	Yr 10 169	Yr 10 160	Yr 10 204
Yr 11 145	Yr 11 133	Yr 11 115	Yr 11 119	Yr 11 132	Yr 11 169	Yr 11 160
Total 638	Total 659	Total 693	Total 773	Total 865	Total 933	Total 954

How large is a viable post 16?

A school or college post 16 provision has to be large enough to be viable and sustainable in order to be able to provide a wide enough range of high quality courses. It has been recognised that a post 16 provision with fewer than 200 students is not viable, particularly in the light of the more recent funding changes where post 16 provision is now funded per student, instead of per qualification. The implications of these reforms over the last two years have meant that some providers have been forced to cut courses whilst others have been forced to close.

Freebrough Academy, with a provision for all students in Year 11 but, in reality, never having had more than 50 in post 16 is not a viable post 16 provision and would have to be funded from other funding streams such as that for the 11-16 students.

How many students choose post 16 provision at Freebrough Academy?

In our Academy Funding Agreement we have provision for accepting 100 students in our post 16 provision. In reality, the number has been far less than this.			
Number of Post 16 Students at Freebrough Academy			
	Year 12	Year 13	Total
Oct 2012	11	0	11
Oct 2013	23	5	28
Oct 2014	36	11	47
Oct 2015	12	26	38
Oct 2016	9	7	15
Oct 2017	0	2	2

What would this mean for the current Year 13 students?

There are currently no Year 12 students at Freebrough Academy. The current two Year 13 students, would continue their studies without interruption.

What would this mean for Year 11 students?

Students in Year 11 would no longer be able to continue their post-16 education at Freebrough Academy. They would be given high quality independent support, advice and guidance to choose another school or college best suited to their needs and preferences.

Implications for academy staff

The closure of the post 16 provision at Freebrough Academy would mean a small reduction in the number of staff or re-deployment into the main academy to work with 11-16 year olds.

The Governing Body at Freebrough Academy and Teesside Learning Trust Statement of Action Trust Board's proposal

Teesside Learning Trust is proposing to close the post 16 provision to new students from September 2018 onwards. Provision for the current post 16 students would be maintained and protected. All courses for the current students would be continued through to their completion in June 2018. The academy would continue to work with individual students leaving Year 11 in June 2018 to identify suitable establishments to meet their needs and preferences. This means that the post 16 provision would finally close in August 2018 and Freebrough Academy would be a school for secondary students aged 11-16 years.



The Governing Body at Freebrough Academy and the Board of Teesside Learning Trust would welcome your views during the consultation period which runs from 9th October 2017 to 11th December 2017.

You may respond to the consultation by either completing the Response Form on the next two pages, by letter to the academy, or by emailing lindahalbert@tltrust.org

All responses should be sent, or handed in, to **Freebrough Academy by 11th December 2017.**

Response Sheet

Your views about the proposed closure of the post 16 provision at Freebrough Academy

Please use this space to tell us your views about the proposed closure of the post 16 provision at Freebrough Academy.



This section asks you for some information that will help us analyse the results of the responses and to see who has taken part. Your response will be anonymous and you will not be identified by any of the information you provide.

I am a: (Please tick ✓ and complete all those that apply to you)

1) Parent/carer Your child's/children's school(s):

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2) Student Your school:

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3) Governor

Your school/college:

4) Staff member

Your school:

5) Local Resident The area of East Cleveland in which you live:

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6) Other Please tell us:

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