



14 March 2017

Dear Parent, Carer and Student

Consultation decision on the age range of the school

The school has today been informed that the Local Authority has approved the proposal made by the Governing Body to change the age range for the school from 11-18 to 11-16 with effect from 31st August 2018. This means that post 16 education delivered by the school will cease from that date.

Whilst the Governing Body is relieved that the Local Authority has agreed with the proposal, this is a very sad day for the school. We are proud of the achievements of our post 16 students over many years. Students have benefitted from high quality education delivered in their local community and have contributed so much to the success and culture of our school. It is a great shame that the level of funding received by the school from central Government, allied to the reduction in the number of students opting to stay on in our 6th form, has forced this decision.

Like all schools we face the challenge of continuing to deliver a high quality of education despite a significant real term reduction in funding. Without the decision to end post 16 provision at the school, the full effects of funding cuts would have fallen disproportionately on students in the 11-16 part of the school. That would inevitably have resulted in a reduction in standards for the majority in our school. We are attempting to minimise the effects of the reduction in funding but like many schools we will be forced to reduce staffing levels; cut the range of subjects offered for GCSE; reduce the money available to spend on books and resources and increase class sizes. All of these will be in addition to ending post 16 provision. If anyone is in any doubt about the funding difficulties facing schools across the country, please see the letter sent to the Prime Minister and local MPs, signed by 150 Headteachers in the North-West of England, which has been placed on our website.

A copy of Lancashire's letter to Governors informing them of the decision can be found on our website alongside the original consultation proposals. A link to the decision on Lancashire's website can be found here: <http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=9718>

Yours faithfully

P. S. Wood

Mr P Wood
Headteacher