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## MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 18 PROPOSALS FOR ALTERATIONS TO SCHOOLS

**Extract of Schedule 2 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 (as amended)**

### **Proposal for a prescribed alteration to the age range of Lytham St Annes Technology and Performing Arts College**

#### **School and Local Authority Contact Details**

This proposal is published by the Governor Body of Lytham St Annes Technology and Performing Arts College; Worsley Road, Lytham St Annes, FY8 4DG. The school is a Foundation School.

The contact address at the Local Authority is: Sarah Hirst, Skills, Learning and Development Service, CCP Ground Floor, PO Box 100, County Hall, Preston, PR1 0LD.

#### **Description of the proposed alteration**

The proposal is that Lytham St Annes Technology and Performing Arts College (LSAT&PAC) permanently lower its age range from 11-18 to 11-16 from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018, through the closure of the Sixth Form. The school will remain open and unchanged for students in the 11-16 part of the school. Post 16 students currently on the roll of Lytham St Annes Technology and Performing Arts College will continue to be taught and will be able to complete their courses at the school. Please note that this proposal does not refer to Lytham Sixth Form College and to the students attending there who are on the roll of Blackpool and the Fylde College.

#### **Objective**

Governors believe that this proposal will make a significant contribution to the financial recovery of the school from an impending deficit position in financial year 2018-19. Without these steps being taken, savings, which have to be made, would fall entirely on the 11-16 section of the school and Governors believe that would be significantly detrimental to the quality of education and opportunities provided for those students.

#### **Evidence and rationale**

Numbers of post 16 enrolled at LSAT&PAC have been falling along with income received for them from the Education Funding Agency (EFA):

Pastoral Leader	Curie College	Newton College	Lennon College	Holmes College	Whittle College	King College	Lytham Sixth Form
Rebecca Johnson	Andrea Lavelle	Emma Pumphrey	Sarah Nicholson	Andrea Boyle	Gail McGreehin	Sarah Lee	Paul Staniforth

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<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>No. of Post 16 Students (years 12 and 13 combined)</b>	<b>Funding £</b>	<b>Funding per student £</b>
2013-14	222	965 382	4 349
2014-15	176	786 356	4 468
2015-16	107	426 544	3 986
2016-17	93	372 000*	4 000*

\*Estimated

Please note that for presentational purposes the table above shows the funding generated by each student. In reality funding is received by the school a year later than the census count that generated the funds, hence the reason for the estimated figures used for funding in 2016/17. Exact funding for those 93 students will not be known until received in the next financial year.

The average EFA student number allocations for the school sixth forms and academies in Lancashire were 236 in 2014/15, 225 in 2015/16 and 217 in 2016/17.

In September 2015, LSAT&PAC, along with Blackpool and the Fylde College (B&FC) agreed to open joint post 16 provision, known as Lytham Sixth Form College (LSFC). LSAT&PAC provides the teaching for academic courses and B&FC the teaching for vocational subjects. Students are on the roll of the provider responsible for their teaching. It should be understood that this proposal does not affect students who are on the roll of B&FC at LSFC.

Whilst 141 (just over 60%) of Year 11 students at LSAT&PAC met the entry requirement to LSAT&PAC's academic programme for September 2016, only 37 students (26% of those eligible) opted to remain at the school to study on that programme. The school recruited a further 12 students from other 11-16 schools, mainly from the Blackpool area. This indicates that remaining at the school to study academic courses is an option taken by only a minority of Year 11 students, with the vast majority opting to pursue courses at much larger sixth form colleges. Equally, the academic programme continues to recruit only a very small number from outside LSAT&PAC's Year 11. Initial indications are that recruitment to post 16 academic courses for September 2017 would follow a similar pattern. These proposals will, therefore, adversely affect a relatively small number of students.

Despite efforts to increase recruitment and to cut the costs of post 16 education over the years, Governors at LSAT&PAC have had to make a considerable subsidy from the funding received for 11-16 students at the school in order to support post 16 provision. In the current financial year alone, the cross-phase subsidy is in the region of £400 000. Governors have concluded that this subsidy is no longer educationally nor financially justifiable given the severe financial constraints under which the school has to work. It is anticipated that by the financial year 2018-19, the school will have a cumulative deficit of around £700 000 unless significant cost saving measures are put in place immediately. This proposal will significantly reduce costs and will therefore make a considerable contribution to reducing the forecast deficit. If this proposal is not agreed, the entire savings needed would have to be made from the 11-16 part of the school. Additionally, the proposal will have the long term effect of removing the cross-phase subsidy from the 11-16 part of the school to the post 16 part. In conclusion, Governors make this proposal in the interests of ensuring the financial viability of the school and so as to not adversely affect the provision and quality of education for 11-16 students.

### **Educational standards and the range of educational and training opportunities**

At the last inspection, in 2013, LSAT&PAC was rated "good" by OFSTED with the overall effectiveness of the Sixth Form also rated as "Good". The school and Sixth Form were not rated "Outstanding" in part because the Sixth Form curriculum was "not providing students with wide enough experiences or opportunities to excel". Current Department for Education (DfE) criteria for a new Sixth Form requires providers to make at least 15 Level 3 courses

(A Level and their equivalent) available. Governors believe that the school's partnership with B&FC has provided the full curriculum opportunities and experiences demanded by OFSTED. Therefore, attempting to make the necessary financial savings by simply reducing the number of academic courses available to post 16 students would not meet the demands of either OFSTED or the DfE and would not be in the interests of post 16 students because that would narrow their range of subjects too much. There is a wide range of alternative post 16 providers (all rated "good" or "outstanding" by OFSTED) which are relatively easy to access (e.g. Lytham Sixth Form College; Cardinal Newman Sixth Form College, 9 miles; Blackpool Sixth Form College, 6 miles) and which provide a full range of suitable courses. The overwhelming majority of LSAT&PAC's Year 11 students already opt to study at these providers rather than on the academic courses LSAT&PAC offers. Therefore, Governors do not believe that the proposal will have an adverse effect on participation in post 16 education nor on the educational standards of those students.

#### **Proposal costs and long term value for money**

Governors believe that the proposal will make a significant contribution to the financial recovery of the school and to long term financial stability at the school. The proposal will also help protect the quality and breadth of provision in the 11-16 part of the school.

#### **Implementation**

The proposal is that the age range of the school change from September 2018. This is so that post 16 students who are currently on roll at LSAT&PAC will be able to complete their education before the proposal comes into effect. However, if the proposal was accepted it would mean that there would be no recruitment to academic courses taught by staff from LSAT&PAC for September 2017 because these students would not be able to complete their two-year courses before the potential implementation of the proposal.

#### **Procedure for responding to the consultation**

In addition to this proposal, there will be a meeting to consider the proposals in the School Hall between 4.30pm and 5.30pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Any person may respond, support, object to or make comments on the proposal by posting them to Sarah Hirst, Skills, Learning and Development Service, CCP Ground Floor, PO Box 100, County Hall, Preston, PR1 0LD. Responses can also be emailed to [sarah.hirst@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.hirst@lancashire.gov.uk). To be considered as part of the decision making process to determine the proposal, responses must be received no later than 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017.