



## **Sixth Form Consultation**

**From 1 November 2022 To 13 December 2022**

### **Consultation on the proposed closure of the Sixth Form at Outwood Academy Normanby (formerly Hillsview Academy)**

#### **The proposed closure of the Sixth Form at Outwood Academy Normanby**

Outwood Grange Academies Trust Board, and the Academy Council at Outwood Academy Normanby, are seeking your views on a proposal to formally close the Sixth Form at Outwood Academy Normanby. The Sixth Form provision stopped accepting students into Year 12 from 1 September 2017. No students have since been admitted. There were only three students in the Sixth Form during the academic year 2018-2019, and they completed their courses in June 2019. The previous academy trust, Academies Enterprise Trust (AET) took the decision to close the sixth due to the low, unviable numbers within the provision. The closure was consulted on at the time, before the transfer to OGAT.

#### **Why we are proposing the phased closure of the Sixth Form**

A school or college Sixth Form has to be large enough to be sustainable and in order to be able to provide a wide enough range of high-quality courses. Research shows that Sixth Forms with fewer than 150-200 students can struggle to be viable. A Collaborative Sixth Form was established in September 2008 between Nunthorpe School, Gillbrook Academy and Eston Park School. When Gillbrook Academy and Eston Park School merged to become Hillsview Academy in September 2014, the Sixth Form Collaboration continued. However, the Collaboration ended in August 2016 and numbers declined at the Sixth Form site at Hillsview Academy. The decision was taken by AET, the sponsors of Hillsview Academy at that time, to put on hold taking students into the Sixth Form from September 2018.

Outwood Academy Normanby opened in September 2019, following the closure of Hillsview Academy, as it transferred to Outwood Grange Academies Trust. We believe that our focus should be on improving the quality of education in Years 7 to 11. The Sixth Form intake has been extremely low in previous years, with no realistic potential to increase numbers in the foreseeable future.

There is a wealth of high quality post-16 provision within the immediate surrounding area, and across the Tees Valley, already fully caters for the needs of our students after they leave at the end of Year 11. If there was an attempt to maintain the Sixth Form at Outwood Academy Normanby, we would be doing so by taking out funding and educational resources that were intended for our secondary phase students. We do not believe that would be fair or proper. The OGAT Board and Academy Council believe that closure is the only way to sustain the current robust finances and safeguard the future and success of the whole school.

### Timeline for proposed closure (if approved)

| Action                                                                                                       | Proposed Timeline   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Consultation period commences                                                                                | 1 November 2022     |
| Consultation period closes                                                                                   | 13 December 2022    |
| Consultation outcome shared with the Education Skills & Funding Agency and the Regional Schools Commissioner | By W/E 17 December  |
| Approval of the Secretary of State                                                                           | As soon as possible |

### Consultation Process

Any proposal from schools or academies wishing to close a Sixth Form provision must be approved by the Secretary of State for Education. The Department for Education requires any consultation to close a Sixth Form to be published at least four months prior to the planned closure, and that the consultation period must last for a period of at least four school weeks.

The Academy Council of Outwood Academy Normanby, OGAT Board Trustees and the Principal therefore invite comments from all stakeholders, anonymously, on the proposal set out in this paper. All views expressed during this consultation will be reported to, and considered by, the Governing Body after the consultation period has ended and will, on request, be published to parties who explicitly request this information.

### How to Respond

This consultation will run from Tuesday 1 November 2022 until Tuesday 13 December 2022 and you are invited to submit feedback via [this form](#), or comments can be submitted in writing about the proposal to: Mr Mark Robinson Principal, Outwood Academy Normanby, Normanby Road, Middlesbrough, TS6 9AG, or via [enquiries@normanby.outwood.com](mailto:enquiries@normanby.outwood.com) with the subject 'Consultation'. Please send any comments before 13 December 2022.

Following the consultation period the OGAT Board and Academy Council will consider any comments received and how to proceed.