



26th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

AXE VALLEY ACADEMY SIXTH FORM PROVISION

At the start of the new millennium Axe Valley was proud to add a Sixth Form to the main school thereby providing young people of our communities with a high quality local venue at which to study A levels and complementary level 3 courses. It is therefore with deep sadness that just 16 years later we, as Trustees find ourselves forced to consider closing this facility due to untenable financial pressures resulting from several years of reduced Post-16 government funding. Recently, it has been necessary to divert money from the 11-16 budget to keep the Sixth Form open, a situation which is neither fair on our younger students nor sustainable in the long term.

Trustees of the Vector Learning Trust which has Axe Valley Academy within its Multi Academy Trust have voted to consult on a proposal to close the Sixth Form at the end of August 2019 once the current Year 12 students have completed their studies. We are fully committed to supporting the current cohort of Year 12 students for the next two years at Axe Valley until they complete their courses at the end of Year 13. We will therefore not be recruiting current Year 11 students into the Sixth Form as we cannot commit to running a further two years of courses from September 2018.

Before we make our final decision regarding closure of the Axe Valley Academy Sixth Form we would like to hear your views.

You are invited to attend an information evening at **6pm on Tuesday 10th October** with a short presentation by Mr Brook setting out the implications of the closure and alternative options for prospective Sixth Form students. There will be plenty of time to ask questions. We will also be posting a consultation document on the Academy website at the following link which will be available from Monday 2nd October <http://axevalley.devon.sch.uk/parent/consultation/>. If you require a printed copy of the document please contact reception in person, by phone or email as given in the letterhead.

We will also be consulting our staff, our feeder Primary Schools, local sixth forms and colleges, the Local Authority and the wider local community.

Trustees and Governors are interested to know your thoughts on this important change to our status so please take the time to respond to our consultation either by using the link on the Consultation section of the website (see above link) or by email to consultation@axevalley.devon.sch.uk putting 'Sixth Form Closure' in the subject line. The consultation period will last from **Tuesday 26th September until Tuesday 7th November**.

Yours faithfully

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