

**Hyde Community College  
Proposal to close the Sixth Form  
Consultation Document**

**May 2015**

**Proposal**

To consult on the proposal not to recruit new sixth form students from September 2015 at Hyde Community college. This will mean that the Sixth Form would close when the current Year 12 students complete their studies in August 2016.

**Rationale for the closure of the Sixth Form**

The future of school sixth forms has been highlighted in the media over many months but particularly in the light of the budget changes to post 16 funding which has gradually declined over the last two years.

Tameside Council constantly reviews college places in the borough and takes into account a range of factors when predicting the number of college places needed.

An average sixth form college has around 1700 students, while an average school sixth form has approximately 200. As a result economies of scale apply which means it is more expensive per student for schools to provide sixth form provision and they may have to subsidise them from other funding streams such as that for 11 to 16 year olds. The Department for Education (DfE) recognises that sixth forms with less than 200 students are at risk of not being financially viable. Hyde Community College was built to take a capacity of 180 students in the sixth form and the new building opened 3 years ago, the intake of year 12 students is shown in the table below:

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Year 12 - Admission Numbers</b>
2012-13	31
2013-14	51
2014-15	24

As the cohorts of post 16 students move into year 13, there is a further drop of students, averaging around a further 10 to 15 percent off the above numbers.

It is also recognised that larger Further Education institutions provide an education that is more akin to Higher Education.

Hyde Community College is unable to provide the breadth of courses that larger establishments can offer, including a wide range of A levels subjects that student require. Consequently the demand for places in the sixth form is limited, with most students in Year 11 choosing to go elsewhere for post 16 provision.



Over the last 3 years Hyde Community College has questioned students in relation to sixth form education and the responses were as follows:

- Students are seeking the breadth of curriculum that the school is not able to provide and also a wider range of facilities.
- They also seek the social aspect that is provided by larger establishments e.g. Ashton sixth form and also other colleges in Manchester. The school in recent years has seen increasing numbers of students travelling to Manchester to access post 16 education.
- Improved transport links e.g. Metrolink, provides the ease of access to establishments outside the Tameside area.

Hyde Community College is built for 180 sixth form students, therefore given the DfE acknowledgement that a sixth form facility requires a minimum of 200 students to be financially viable, Hyde Community College post 16 provision cannot be sustainable financially.

Equally in changing the age range from 11-18 to 11 to 16, this will allow resources to be focused on the improving outcomes for years 7 to 11, especially as it is anticipated that from 2016, secondary schools will start to experience the increase in pupil numbers, which is a result of the increased birth rate over recent years.

The council as part of decision making wants to ensure the most appropriate and best options for our students.

Taking into account the range of factors above, this consultation proposes that the sixth form at Hyde Community College will close when the current Year 12 students complete their studies in August 2016.

### How to make your views known

It is important to stress that **no decisions have been made**. Tameside Council and the Governors wishes to consult widely, particularly with parents and the school. Statutory proposals are required for a proposed removal of sixth form from a school, and there are 4 statutory stages for a statutory proposal for an excepted expansion:

1. A statutory notice will be published in the local press on the **11<sup>th</sup> June 2015**;
  2. Representation – Formal Consultation is a period in which comments on proposals can be made including objections and expressions of support for proposals which will commence on 15<sup>th</sup> June **2015 until midnight on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015**.
  3. Tameside Council is the statutory decision maker on these proposals. It will consider a Key Decision Report, taking into account feedback received during the consultation process. A meeting will be held to consider the Key Decision report and this will take place **within 2 months** of the closing date of the consultation. At the meeting, the Cabinet Deputy will make a decision based on recommendations contained in the Key Decision Report
  4. Implementation – the decisions will be implemented after the Key Decision meeting
- The representation period will run from 15<sup>th</sup> June **2015 until midnight on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015**. As part of the consultation process there will be consultation meetings with staff, governors, and parents from school as appropriate.



# Hyde

11-18 Community College

All representations must be made in writing and a response sheet is attached to the back of this document for you to comment on the proposal. All those interested in responding to the consultation are invited to comment in writing or by returning the attached response form to:

Paul Thompson  
Assistant Headteacher  
Hyde Community College  
Old Road  
Hyde  
SK14 4SP

Email: [p.thompson@hydecc.tameside.sch.uk](mailto:p.thompson@hydecc.tameside.sch.uk) no later than 12 midnight **on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015.**



# Hyde

11-18 Community College

## Hyde Community College Proposal to close the sixth Form Consultation Response Form

Please give all the details you can:

Name

Address

Email

I am (please tick one box)

Parent/carer	<input type="checkbox"/>	School Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staff member	<input type="checkbox"/>
At (please name the school)	<input type="text"/>				
I am not in one of the above categories but still wish to comment on the proposals					<input type="checkbox"/>

**I wish to make a comment on the following proposals**

Proposal	Comment (please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)
To close the sixth form at Hyde Community College	          



# Hyde

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Paul Thompson  
Assistant Headteacher  
Hyde Community College  
Old Road  
Hyde  
SK14 4SP

Email: [p.thompson@hydecc.tameside.sch.uk](mailto:p.thompson@hydecc.tameside.sch.uk) no later than 12 midnight **on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015.**