

To [name]

I am writing to inform you of a proposal to strengthen and secure sixth form provision in Stockton on Tees.

As the only specialist sixth form college in the area, we have been working to continue our journey to become an 'Outstanding' college and enhance every student's experience at Stockton Sixth Form. Part of this work has involved working closely with a college in Guisborough; Prior Purslove College. This partnership has involved sharing staff and support services and has proved very effective.

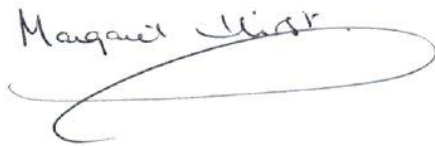
Consideration has therefore been given at a strategic level to enable both colleges to reach the highest possible standards whilst continuing to make cost savings. To this end, both colleges' Governing Bodies have agreed to conduct a consultation around a proposal to merge. Central to the proposal is the commitment that sixth form college education will continue on both sites, each with its unique identity, as currently.

In many ways, the proposal will not impact students' day-to-day routines. They will continue to access the same courses at the same location, just as before. However, it will allow us to share key services and functions across the two sites which will make us more efficient and effective. Part of this work will involve shared leadership. Subject to the outcome of consultation, the intention is that Joanna Bailey, currently Principal at Stockton Sixth Form College, will be appointed to the role of Principal of the merged college to oversee the strategic direction of both sites.

Sixth form colleges are an asset to any community; almost 90% nationally are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. This forward-thinking approach gives us the opportunity to secure not only local sixth form college provision, but the viability and future prosperity of each college centre for many years to come.

We want to hear your views about these proposals and to this end invite you to a drop-in consultation meeting at Stockton Sixth Form College on Tuesday 22nd September from 5.00-7.00pm. Please find enclosed a consultation document for your perusal.

Yours Sincerely,



Margaret Hirst
Chair of Governors



Joanna Bailey
Principal