



## OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF COALVILLE SECONDARY SCHOOLS:-

### FOR THE THREE SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO BECOME TWO KEY STAGE 3 AND 4 SCHOOLS WITH A SHARED SIXTH FORM

#### **Background:**

Our vision at Castle Rock and Newbridge High School, and King Edward VII College is to enable a joint approach, to ensure the best possible outcomes for all of our young people as they progress through their education.

We recognise that in order to achieve this, we need to embed a clear, coherent, first class educational experience. This will enable all of our young people to achieve the success that they not only deserve, but encompassed with their own rigour and determination, is their right.

These three schools already have a strong history and excellent track records of success. The most recent Ofsted inspection reports confirm that students' academic and personal progress is good within our schools. Nevertheless, it is our ambition that working together and by making the changes set out in this consultation document, we can further improve the quality of education provided.

Currently, within the Coalville area, students change schools at ages 11 and 14. Whilst this has worked very well for many years, recent national changes to the curriculum and qualifications, has meant we have begun to think of a better way to organise schooling across the three secondary schools. Thereby changing the educational landscape for the young people of Coalville and its surrounding villages. To do so will provide the opportunity to also look at how we deliver the curriculum and provide more choice for students with different skills and educational needs. Continuity of provision for children is also important and whilst the three schools work together very well at the point of transfer, for some children this can prove a challenge. Some find the transfer of school relatively easy at these crucial stages, others find it more difficult.

For these reasons our Governors/Trustees and Senior Leaders in each school have spent time exploring the options available to make things work better. We now believe that the best way to build upon our good work and improve upon the quality of education provided, is to progress age range change for our schools to provide a system of 'all through' 11-16 schools in Coalville, with a shared Sixth Form for both, based on the King Edward VII site. We believe that to improve results and for students to achieve and excel, we need to give them every reason to want to, and every opportunity to do so. Outstanding teaching, exceptional care, guidance, support and mental health provision, that will inspire them and where they will be safe, thrive and be the best they can be.

#### **The proposal for consultation is that from September 2020:**

The three secondary schools in the Coalville area will become two. An 11–16 school on the Castle Rock/King Edward VII campus, an 11–16 school on the Newbridge site and a joint Sixth Form – based on the Castle Rock/King Edward VII campus, accessible for both schools.

We believe that making the change as set out in this consultation will provide a real opportunity to continue, and build on, past success for our children, and make the best use of the skills, expertise and resources available to us.

## The process:

The consultation began on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 and ended on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
The following stakeholders were provided with Consultation documentation:

- Parents of current students at the three secondary schools; Castle Rock, Newbridge and KEVII.
- Parents of potential students who live in our catchment area and those that live further afield.
- Staff who work at each of our schools.
- Representatives of the Local Authority (Leicestershire).
- Other local schools (primary and secondary) that may be affected by our proposals.
- The local community.
- Neighbouring Local Authorities

In addition, information about the consultation and an opportunity to respond, were posted on all of the Apollo schools websites and the King Edward VII College website. An article, explaining the vision and consultation, was also placed in the local newspaper giving all local residents an opportunity to respond.

## Results of the Age Range Change Consultation:

In total there were 108 responses. These have been divided into the following categories:

- ❖ Staff - 41 - 38%
- ❖ Parents - 60 - 55%
- ❖ Wider Community - 5 - 5%
- ❖ Not stated - 2 - 2%

(NB – percentages have been rounded up)

**In total, 96 responses were in favour of the Age Range Change (89%) 9 were against (8%) and 3 did not indicate (3%)**

There were many positive comments regarding the proposal. These included:

*“I think this is an excellent idea. Children need stability and three years at Newbridge never seemed enough. To allow my children to stay on and do their GCSEs would give them some continuity at this important time”*

*“As a mother of a child who will go to school in this area and a teacher, I feel that this is vital, in order to drive improvement and progress for the young people of Coalville”*

*“I think it’s a good idea as changing schools when the children are settled, often causes lots of issues and stress for them and parents”*

*“I think the changes are moving secondary education forward in Coalville. I wholeheartedly agree with the changes”*

*“Children get to know their school and teachers. I never understood why, at a very hormonal and emotional age, they have to face a new school and new teachers adding more stress. Even though there will be teething problems, I feel it’s a positive move forward for the future”*

*“I think this is an excellent idea. Children need stability. To allow my children to stay on to do their GCSEs would give them continuity at this important time”*

*“Desperately needed for the Coalville area”*

## **Emerging themes:**

In addition, some questions/concerns were also raised during the Consultation which can be broadly categorised into two themes. These are detailed below with an explanation of how we plan to address them.

### Structures and Leadership of the school:

Questions and comments were made about the future structures and leadership of the schools.

It is too early to determine leadership and final staffing structures for what will be the two Apollo secondary schools. This will be determined at a later stage in the process.

It is vitally important that the future leadership teams can carry out the vision of Apollo and live our values and ethos. It is equally important that we retain the excellent skillset of staff across the schools. We intend to enable opportunities for colleagues who wish to progress in their careers.

### Suitability of the sites:

Specific concerns about the suitability of both sites were raised and the students aged from 11 – 16 mixing together on one site.

We are already planning for changes to both sites in order to offer the best possible facilities.

We have established a number of Work Stream Groups, with representation not only from all Apollo schools, but experts within the Local Authority and other specialist consultants. We will keep you informed of our vision as building developments move forward. At the forefront of our vision is to ensure the buildings are fit for purpose to accommodate the increased age range at both sites.

In addition, the Apollo Care and Guidance team are working together to ensure the most effective care, guidance and well-being continues to underpin the ethos of both school sites.

The curriculum offer we intend to provide to our young people is currently being planned. This is an exciting time as we look to change and improve the secondary educational landscape in our area. Again representatives from all schools, including our primary school, together with guidance from our key stage four partner, are ensuring that we will fulfil our aim of providing an educational experience that is designed to enable all students to discover their strengths and to make the most of their talents with Apollo and beyond.

## **Conclusion/Recommendations:**

Overall, the responses to the Consultation show that there is a high level of support for change from parents and within the wider community. The Consultation has highlighted other challenges that lie ahead for the age range change to be a success and consideration will be given, at the appropriate time, to resolve these issues. It is important that the Trust keeps in touch with all our stakeholders as the process progresses.

### Trustees (Apollo)/Governors (KEVII) are asked to:

- ❖ Note the content of this report and the positive outcome to the Consultation on the proposals for age range change and school merger.
- ❖ Agree that actions now be taken by the CEO and Executive Group to develop a business case for submission to the Regional Schools Commissioner, to seek consent for the change of age range to take effect from September 2020.
- ❖ Agree that the outcome of the consultation be shared with parents, students and other key stakeholders and they be advised of the intention to proceed with this subject to RSC consent.

**Julia Patrick**  
**CEO, Apollo Partnership Trust**