



5th February 2026

Alsop High School

Dear Parent/Carers,

RE: Alsop High School Consultation response (Sixth Form Provision)

Following the formal consultation held between 24th November 2025 to 5th January 2026, we are writing to inform you of the outcome regarding the proposed closure of the Sixth Form at Alsop High School.

The consultation invited feedback from a wide range of stakeholders including parents, carers, students, staff, trade unions, the Local Authority and the wider community. Governors and Trustees were grateful to everyone who took the time to respond and share their views. Furthermore, they were interested in exploring an alternative to closure that was presented.

It was proposed that Governors/Trustees should consider closure in abeyance, meaning that the Sixth Form is retained, but would not admit any new students for 1-2 years, with a view to recruit increased numbers of students, once outcomes in Year 11 have improved. Governors/Trustees were interested in exploring this possibility, although they noted it could prove difficult to achieve. This proposal would still mean that no students were admitted to the Alsop Sixth Form in September 2026.

After careful consideration of all the feedback received, the Governing Body and Trustees have agreed to submit an application to the Department for Education (DfE) to seek approval for the phased closure of the Sixth Form, with no new admissions to Year 12 from September 2026. As part of this submission to the DfE, we have also included the alternative suggestion of closure in abeyance, as outlined above. We await the DfE's response and will provide a written update in due course.

This decision has not been taken lightly and reflects both the financial and educational challenges that the consultation reviewed.

Summary of Consultation Findings:

Low student numbers: Only 28 students entered Year 12 at the start of September 2025, representing just 15% of the Sixth Form's capacity.

Financial sustainability: The Sixth Form requires an annual subsidy, which impacts the wider school budget and provision for students in Years 7–11.

Educational outcomes: Subject breadth is limited due to small cohort sizes.

Local alternatives: A wide range of local academic and vocational post-16 providers are available which offer broader curriculum choices. The vast majority of students who leave Alsop already attend these provisions.

Stakeholder views: While many respondents expressed concerns about reduced choice and continuity, others acknowledged the financial realities and supported reinvestment into Key Stages 3 and 4.



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Next Steps

Subject to a final decision from the Secretary of State at the DfE, Alsop High School will not admit new Year 12 students from September 2026. Current Sixth Form students will continue their studies uninterrupted until completion in 2027.

A strengthened careers guidance and transition programme will be implemented to support Year 11 students in identifying and accessing high-quality post-16 options. Parents and carers of Year 11 students will shortly receive further information on this.

Supporting Students and Families

We understand the concerns raised during the consultation, particularly around continuity, SEND support and travel. In response, we will:

- Provide individual transition plans for students with SEND.
- Offer enhanced careers guidance, including one-to-one support and links with colleges.
- Liaise with the Local Authority to research any available transport support for eligible students.
- Continue to deliver a high-quality Personal Development curriculum that promotes ambition and prepares students for successful futures.

We remain committed to supporting all students and families through this transition. Our focus continues to be on delivering an excellent education for all students and ensuring they are well-prepared for their next steps.

We have included a Frequently Asked Questions section at the end of this letter. If you have any further questions or would like to discuss the consultation outcome, please do not hesitate to contact the school on ahssixthformconsultation@ahs.omegamat.co.uk

Yours sincerely,

Executive Principal
Alsop High School



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Frequently Asked Questions

The common themes from the consultation have been summarised below with the school's response:

Q: If closure in abeyance is approved, what would this look like?

A: Should the DfE consider closure in abeyance to be a possibility this would mean the Sixth Form would not recruit students to Year 12 in September 2026 and possibly in September 2027. The same programme of support and guidance would apply to Year 11 leavers during 2026 and 2027. If approved, the Sixth Form would seek to recruit year 12 students to start their Post-16 courses in September 2028. This is, however, subject to DfE approval.

Q: What support will be available for students with SEND or additional needs?

A: We will work closely with families and our SEND team to create personalised transition plans, for those who require it. We will also liaise with the Local Authority and post-16 providers to ensure EHCP requirements are met and transitions are well-supported.

Q: Will current Sixth Form students be affected?

A: No. All current Sixth Form students will continue their studies uninterrupted until completion in 2027.

Q: How will Year 11 students be supported in finding post-16 options?

A: We will provide enhanced careers guidance, including one-to-one support, links to colleges and a strengthened transition programme.

Q: What about travel and accessibility to other providers?

A: We will liaise with the Local Authority to support any eligible students with information on transport options. We will also signpost bursary schemes and travel assistance options.

Q: Is this decision a sign that the school is lowering its ambitions?

A: Absolutely not. Our commitment to high expectations and excellent outcomes. This remains unchanged. We will reinvest resources into Key Stages 3 and 4 to further strengthen our provision.

Q: Has the school tried to improve Sixth Form recruitment?

A: Yes. Over several years, we have invested in marketing, open events and outreach. Despite these efforts, demand has remained low due to the accessibility of wider curriculum offers and bespoke sixth form providers.

Q: Was the consultation process fair and inclusive?

A: Yes. The consultation met statutory requirements and was widely shared with stakeholders, including publication on our website.

Q: Will this have any effect on the school's success?

A: No. Many high-performing schools nationally and locally are 11–16 provisions. Our focus remains on educational excellence and we will continue to support students in making successful transitions to post-16 education.