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Principal

Anton McGrath BA

**Consultation on the expansion of college premises at Ashton Sixth Form College, Darnton Road, Ashton-Under-Lyne, a 16-19 academy
Friday 25th June to Friday 6th August 2021**

Forward

The Trustees of Stamford Park Trust and members of the Local Governing Body for Ashton Sixth Form College would like to hear your views on the proposal to increase the student number capacity from 2376 students to 2600 and expand the college premises by the addition of teaching accommodation.

We are currently progressing with preliminary designs and planning consultations, and have made a capital funding application to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and the Department for Education (DfE). We are consulting with parents, staff, the local community and other stakeholders about this proposal.

About Ashton Sixth Form College

Ashton Sixth Form College is rated Outstanding by Ofsted following its last inspection in January 2020. The college was established in 1980 and is located on Darnton Road, Ashton-Under-Lyne. The college transferred from its status as a designated Sixth Form College to a 16-19 academy in February 2019 and became the founder member of Stamford Park Trust, a Multi-Academy Trust.

Ashton Sixth Form College has performed consistently well for several years according to DfE accountability measures and raw outcomes. The college has been in the top 10% of all providers in England and Wales for value added in most of the last four years for both A level and BTEC provision. The college was shortlisted for the TES award for Sixth Form College of the Year in 2019.

Why expand on our current site?

The college has been oversubscribed for the past three years. For entry in August 2021, 2733 applications have been made for approximately 1250 places. Demand for places outstrips our current capacity. The college has significantly increased its market share from schools both within Tameside and from surrounding Local Authorities in recent years; students and their parents want to attend the college. In addition, the number of students in school year groups continues to increase which will lead to greater pressure on post 16 places for the next decade. All school sixth forms in Tameside have closed in the last few years.

How will this decision be reached?

A business case to support the funding application will be submitted to the ESFA and the Regional School Commissioner (RSC). The funding application has already been submitted to the ESFA. The business case will include a summary of the public consultation and the views and comments received. The ESFA and RSC will analyse the business case and take a decision accordingly.

Trustees and members of the Local Governing Body will consider the views of a range of stakeholders. If the capital funding application and business case are approved, we expect a final decision in the autumn of 2021.



How can you respond to this consultation?

The consultation will run from Friday 25th June to Friday 6th August inclusive. You can:

- Write to the address below outlining your views:
 - Expansion Consultation response
Ashton Sixth Form College
Darnton Road
Ashton-Under-Lyne
OL6 9RL
- Or, email a response to consultation@asfc.ac.uk

The consultation period will close at 4.00pm on Friday 6th August 2021

N.B. We will note all your comments but will not be able to respond individually to all response email or letters.