

Consultation Document

Creation of Cheshire Enterprise College, a Key Stage 4 vocational provision, by re-launching the Knutsford-based Cheshire Studio School in a new Crewe location.

Introduction

This document outlines the proposal to relocate Cheshire Studio School from its current location in Knutsford to a new site in Crewe, and relaunch this provision as Cheshire Enterprise College, a Key Stage 4 vocational provision.

The purpose of this consultation is to gather feedback from stakeholders, including students, parents, staff, and the local community, to ensure a smooth and beneficial transition.

Background

Cheshire Studio School, currently based at Knutsford Academy, has been providing various education programmes focused on employability and vocational skills since its establishment in 2014. The school has built a strong reputation for its innovative curriculum and successful student outcomes and has been rated as 'Good' by OFSTED in March 2023.

Since 2024 Cheshire Studio School has only enrolled students in Year 10 that had attended Knutsford Academy in Year 9.

Currently the school is fully integrated with Knutsford Academy and the students on the Studio School roll are taught in classes with the students of Knutsford Academy other than for their vocational subjects.

Due to the Studio School being fully integrated into Knutsford Academy, in 2024/25 there were no students admitted to the Studio School, instead those students were enrolled in Knutsford Academy ensuring there was no loss of provision for students in the area.

There will be no students admitted to Cheshire Studio School in 2025/26, effectively leaving the Studio School with no students. This will enable the provision to be rebranded to Cheshire Enterprise College, and then relocated, without any impact on either students or staff.

Reasons for Relocation

Enhanced Facilities: The new site in Crewe offers state-of-the-art facilities that will better support the school's vocational and academic programmes.

Accessibility: Crewe is more centrally located within Cheshire with a larger proportion of students who would value an aspirational vocational pathway, with the local industry expressing the need for better vocational pathways in the Crewe area.

Community Integration: The relocation will allow Cheshire Enterprise College to integrate more closely with local businesses and industries in Crewe, enhancing work experience opportunities for students.

Trust working: The Learning Partnership currently has another 14-19 provision in the locality delivering a technical education as well as two 11-16 schools in the town. The Studio School will work collaboratively across the MAT in the locality to support the effective running and organisation of the school. This will help to deliver efficiencies and a collaborative approach to working for staff and leadership.

Reasons for Rebranding

Studio Schools were initially launched in 2010 as a small project-based form of free school. Whilst the concepts underpinning studio schools and their structure remain at the heart of the proposals outlined below, the relatively small number of active studio schools nationally, and a lack of clear understanding of their purpose or delivery model, means the existing name of Cheshire Studio School no longer speaks to the key stakeholders the provision is trying to engage with, namely parents, carers and pupils looking to engage in a programme of study focusing on real work employability and direct links to the world of work.

Further, locally in Crewe the only secondary school provision commencing at Key Stage 4 currently (i.e. not admitting in year 7) is Crewe Engineering & Design University Technical College (UTC). As such, the use of the word school for a specialist Key Stage 4 provision is also likely to confuse key target audiences.

For the above reasons the name of Cheshire Enterprise College is being proposed, as it directly engages with the purpose of the provision and its Key Stage 4 entry point, and this should help all stakeholders in the locality to understand its purpose.

The Proposal

The proposal is to relocate and relaunch Cheshire Enterprise College in the soon to open 'Crewe Youth Zone'.

<https://www.onsideyouthzones.org/youth-zones/crewe-youth-zone/>

This will be a fully funded state-of-the-art facility with the ability to house the delivery of the curriculum during the time when the youth zone is typically closed to young people.

The college will initially open for students beginning Year 10 in September 2026 and will run two pathways for a maximum of 50 students (25 per pathway). These pathways are intended to be:

- BTEC construction and the built environment
- Technical Award in the study of Hair and Beauty.

Some of the practical aspects of the BTEC construction will be delivered in a specialist facility in one of TLP's 11-16 schools.

Both pathways would have a further level 2 elective option that can be chosen alongside a core curriculum offer that all students follow:

	Pathway 1	Pathway 2
Enterprise	Level 2 Tech Award Enterprise	
	Level 2 Tech Award Construction & Built Environment	Level 2 Tech Award Study of Hair & Beauty
	Level 2 Tech Award Health and Social Care	
	Level 2 Tech Award Sport and Coaching Principles	
Core	English Language GCSE + English Literature GCSE + Level 1/2 Functional Skills	
	Mathematics GCSE + Level 1/2 Functional Skills	
	Combined Science GCSE	
	PHSE	

This model is proposed due to the known demands for the workforce in Crewe and will have a positive impact on the pathways for young people in the area either into the workplace or into the local college to further their education.

The provision will complement the existing curriculum offer in the town, offering additional options for those pupils looking at a non-traditional curriculum route at Key Stage 4, and will integrate well with the course offering at Cheshire College South and West, the large college located within the town.

Cheshire Enterprise College will enable students in the locality to make aspirational choices to follow a vocational education pathway with a focus on being 'Workplace ready', with strong connections with local businesses.

Proposed Timeline

Consultation Period: 16th June 2025 to 14th July 2025

Consultation meeting for local educational establishments: 19th June 3.30pm – UTC, Crewe

Decision Announcement: TBC

Preparation and Transition: September 2025 – September 2026 (Proposed)

Official Relocation: September 2026

Impact on Students and Staff

The relocation will not cause any disruption to students' education.

All current students will continue their learning on the same curriculum model at Knutsford Academy, and Knutsford Academy will continue to offer the same vocational qualifications following relocation via the main school.

All current staff will continue their employment delivering this same curriculum at Knutsford Academy.

Detailed planning with regards to the curriculum design and implementation will ensure that the students who apply to be part of Cheshire Enterprise College will receive a high-quality vocational education with significant local employment or educational opportunities.

Feedback and Participation

We invite all stakeholders to provide their feedback on this proposal. Your input is crucial to ensure the relocation meets the needs of our community. Please submit your comments via the following channels:

Email: contact@tlptrust.com

Online Survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/kxsWM9ys9d>

Conclusion

The development of Cheshire Enterprise College in Crewe, by relocating and rebranding Cheshire Studio School, represents a significant opportunity to enhance educational provision and community engagement in the Crewe area. We look forward to your valuable feedback and support in making this transition successful.