

Outcome of the consultation on the closure of the sixth form at Dixons Allerton Academy

Summary of the consultation

Dixons Academies Trust consulted on the proposal to close the sixth form. The reasons behind the proposal are due to the sixth form provision being a net liability to the whole school. This is because of a fall in applications, a consequence of which has been a reduction in the range of courses available, which has in turn resulted in a lack of diverse pathways for students. By removing the sixth form, it would also mean more resources are available for the primary and secondary phases of the school.

Consultation period

The consultation ran from Monday 10 November 2025 to Sunday 21 December 2025.

Responses to the consultation

Respondents were asked to indicate which of the following categories best represented their interest in this consultation.

	Number of responses
Parent	15
Member of staff	0
Local authority, academy trust or school	2
Member of the public	0
Councillor or MP	0
Community or religious organisation	0
Total	17

Respondents were then asked to indicate whether they supported the removal of the sixth form provision.

	Number of responses
Yes	4
No	13
Total	17

Respondents also had the opportunity to add any comments that related to their response. These comments included the following:

Against

- I'm sad it's not going to be available for my children especially my eldest two as they leave school very soon so this will mean they have to travel therefore they may not even decide to take up further education at all which is sad.
- I am strongly against the closure of sixth form; my son is currently in year 11 he has been in Dixon Allerton for five years. He loved to continue sixth form in Dixon Allerton. He knows all the teachers and familiar with the area. He was disappointed with the decision. Please reconsider your decision, it is affecting our children futures.
- It would be great to have a sixth form to support the children's ongoing education. It is both local and would mean the kids wouldn't have to undergo massive changes at this critical stage.
- Students prefer 6th form at school and as a parent I would prefer my child at school.
- It was close to my children and those living in the local area it was easier to pick and drop all kids the next closest are new college or Dixons sixth form which are quite far.
- Other sixth forms are too far for most kids.
- I feel removing the 6th form is the wrong decision. For students to have 6th form access within their secondary school is vital for their ongoing success. Students are within familiar setting with teachers known to them - therefore can concentrate on achieving the best results, rather than worrying about commuting issues and no doubt many may drop out of their courses if they have to travel further and be in uncomfortable places, jeopardising their future prospects. Having a 6th form at Dixons Allerton was one of

the reasons I wanted my children to attend this school. In addition, it is positive for the younger students to see the 6th form students dressed smartly and doing well as it will inspire and motivate them to also reach 6th form with good GCSE results. Please re-think this decision to remove the 6th form as it will not be beneficial for the school and its reputation.

- Provisions and services should be accessible to young people in their community. It adds issues around increased traffic into town, making transport and issue for parents around their working days and safety in travel is a big concern in society today and I would not be letting my child travel alone. Besides these practical factors our children have added since primary and the continued learning provides consistency and support with the relationships they already have built with staff and other pupils. The teaching is of good standard, and it should not be taken away from the pupils.
- I do not support this as students are struggling to get into college or 6th form due to the high numbers of applications. Children from the local area will have less opportunities and options if this is removed.
- I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed variation of the admissions arrangements for September 2026, specifically the plan to remove references to Post-16 provision. The Post-16 offer is an essential part of our academy's identity and a vital pathway for our students. It provides continuity, stability, and opportunity for our learners to progress within a familiar and supportive environment. The proposed removal would not only limit student choice but also undermine the academy's broader educational vision and community role. I therefore request that the Post-16 provision be retained in full within the admissions arrangements and that no variation be submitted that would remove or alter it. I would also ask that this matter be discussed further before any formal consultation or decision is taken.

For

- If the rest of the school is benefiting from the closure, then I do support it, however Dixon Allerton 6th when my children attended it was classed as the best 6th form. Also, with me living close by it was brilliant to have a 6th form close by as the kids could walk to and from the school, with the other 6th forms being located close to town it will mean the local children will need transport to get to them.
- Any project must be economically viable and in the best interest of students. It looks like 6th form is no longer offering students better outcomes therefore, students should be directed to other institutions.
- The proposal to close the sixth form aligns with the Council and local partnership approach for post-16 provision in Bradford, in terms of ensuring post-16 settings can offer a diverse and financially viable curriculum. The falling level of demand for post-16 places at the Academy will restrict the capacity to offer a broad curriculum with a range of pathways for young people to support them in realising their career ambitions. It is positive that the Trust sees this change as an opportunity to focus on and positively impact the curriculum for both the primary and secondary phases of the school. The Trust has an outstanding 16-19 Academy within travelling distance which provides a positive and natural progression opportunity. We note the success that the school has had in terms of supporting young people from last year's Year 11 to transition into post-16 education and to embrace the opportunities available within the wider trust and the Bradford area. We look forward to collaborating with the school to further improve positive and sustained progressions at the end of Year 11 and will be happy to support and enable any further links that will benefit your students.
- Kirklees does not have any comments or issues regarding the proposed change.

Factors considered

- The decline in student numbers from 271 in 2021 to 124 in 2025, resulting in both a net liability and a narrowing of the options available to students limiting their choice of pathways.
- Current students at Dixons Allerton will have priority for places at the Dixons Sixth Form.
- In addition to the Dixons Sixth Form, there are other post-16 educational establishments in Bradford (e.g. New College, Bradford College) that can offer the range of courses currently available at Dixons Allerton.
- The benefit that will be seen in the primary and secondary phases in terms of resources, which will only be achievable through the closure of the sixth form.

Outcome

The Board of Trustees reviewed the responses to the outcome and considered the factors above. On balance they agreed with the proposal to close the sixth form to ensure current students have a diverse range of pathways available to them and, in addition, the benefit that will ensue for both current and future pupils in the lower phases of the Academy through an increase in available resource.

The Academy will now be required to make a significant change application to the Department for Education. If approved a variation to the admissions arrangements will then be made.