

Public Consultation

November 2023

Proposal for Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College
to become a 16-19 academy

Timeline

20th November - 20th December 2023

Public consultation period

Mid-February 2024

Summary of consultation published

1st April 2024

Multi Academy Trust is formed

Your views matter

Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College is proposing to convert to 16-19 Academy Status and form a new Multi Academy Trust. By bringing partners together from the post-16, secondary and primary sectors we believe that we can enhance the sustainability and reach of our College, whilst retaining all of our identity and commitment to the students and communities we serve.

Our intention is to preserve everything about QE that students, parents/carers, staff and our communities value, whilst developing an even better connected and better resourced College.

This document outlines our proposition, as well as the benefits to students, staff and local communities.

Chair's Foreword

At Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, we have built our popularity and success on our vision of providing a transformational learning experience for our students. My own children attended QE so I understand just how important it is to preserve the tremendous QE experience and progression opportunities. Our proposed conversion to 16 -19 Academy Status will ensure that students and parents/carers can depend on the same quality of experience at QE long into the future. QE's history is one of adapting to change. This latest proposal comes at a time when many other sixth form colleges have already, or are planning to, become 16-19 Academies themselves. By taking this step we will be joining many other important colleges in the academies world, where we can offer the same high quality educational experience whilst enjoying the many benefits that come from working with others.

Iain Clyde
Chair of Governors



Our Vision

We believe that by becoming a 16-19 Academy and forming a new Multi Academy Trust, serving young people aged from 2 to 19 years of age, we can support high academic attainment, social mobility and future success for all of our students, current and future. Our long established relationship with Swift Academies makes them an ideal partner at this time. By forming a new Multi Academy Trust, Inicio, we will each be able to go beyond what any individual school or college can achieve. We will create a better resourced, better connected and better supported organisation with the capacity, skill and influence to positively impact the futures of more young people through mutual support and sustainable growth.

Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College will retain all of its unique identity and characteristics, continuing to grow and develop its strong relationships with existing partners, and also belong to a group of providers where collaboration will enhance and strengthen us all.

Our vision is entirely consistent with the Department for Education's Darlington Trust Development Statement (March 2023), which states that, *'Darlington is to raise education standards through the consolidation of the trust landscape, resulting in a smaller number of high quality trusts, building on existing strengths to improve outcomes for all young people...'*



To provide a transformational learning experience that equips students with the knowledge, confidence and skills to flourish in their lives, careers and communities





Benefits of Becoming a 16-19 Academy

For QE Students:

- An even better resourced College
- Enhanced transition support between phases
- New volunteering and leadership opportunities
- Greater continuity of learning experience between School and College
- Access to a more extensive programme of enrichment activities
- Peer mentoring opportunities
- Access to a wider pool of staff expertise and specialisms
- Wider partnership, enhancing the knowledge and skills of young people and increasing social mobility
- Seamless progression for students within the Trust and beyond into Higher Education, apprenticeships and employment

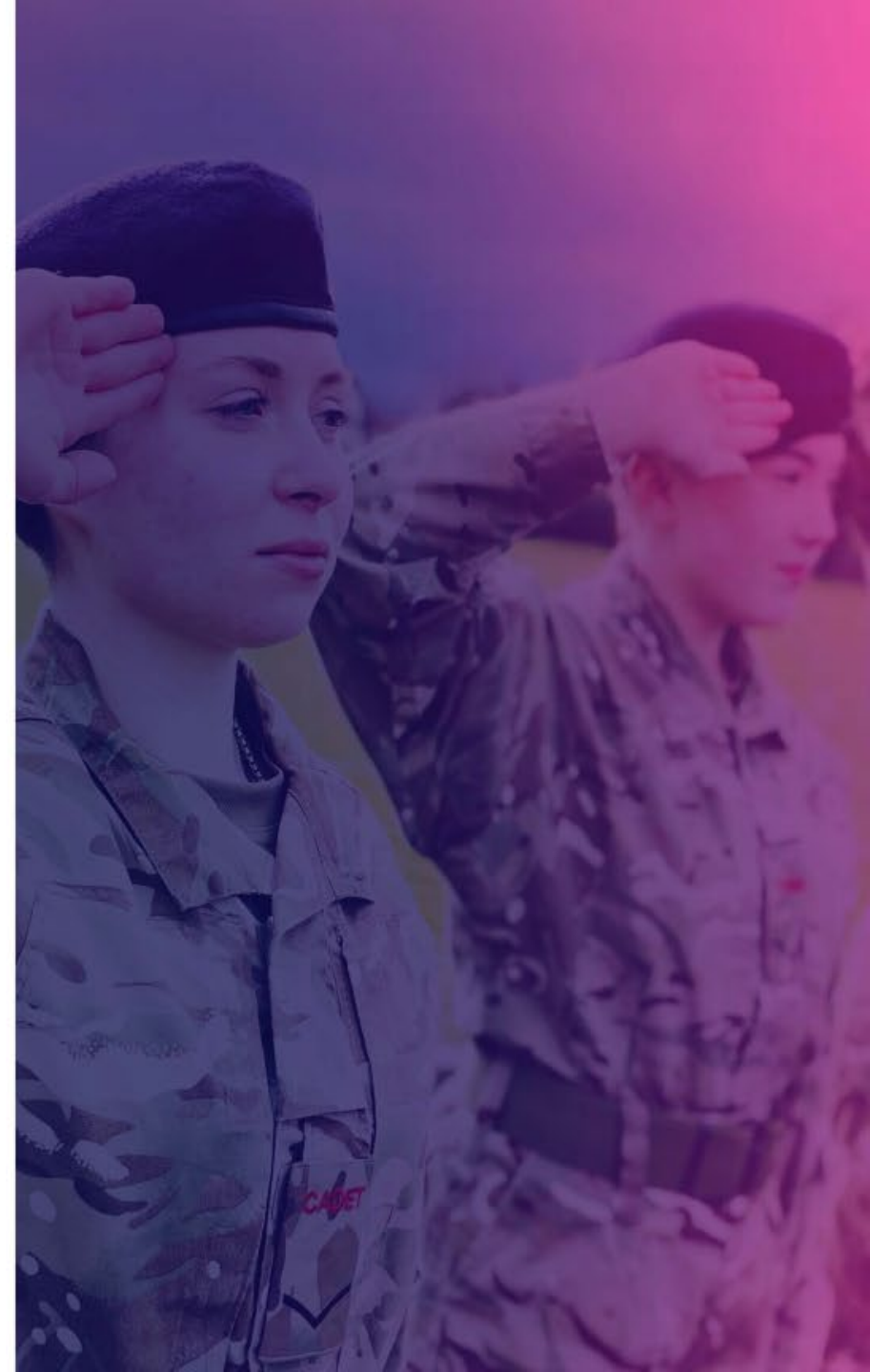
For QE Staff:

- New opportunities to share teaching and learning strategies and expertise across all phases
- Increased investment in facilities and resources
- A larger and more diverse peer support network including involvement in cross-trust groups
- Strengthened leadership and governance to support all colleagues
- Progression and career development opportunities across the Trust
- An employer that is better placed to adapt to external changes and take opportunities as they arise
- An employer with greater influence in the locality and beyond
- New opportunities to develop skills and expertise within the Trust
- Additional financial stability and sustainability

Benefits of Becoming a 16-19 Academy

For universities, employers and our local communities:

- Enhanced partnership working within a Trust that has greater breadth and reach
- Strengthened capacity for engagement, collaboration and information sharing with all stakeholders
- For employers and universities, access to students with highly developed skills for learning and work
- Stronger relationships built over many years and several phases of education
- Enhanced opportunities for innovation and the flexibility to respond to local and national needs
- Greater resource available to meet local and national skills needs
- More opportunities to engage with and support local community, voluntary and charity groups
- The opportunity to play a greater part in and benefit from extensive employability activities throughout the learning journey
- Opportunities to engage with students from an early age to promote higher education and employment prospects



Statutory Notice: of the Proposed Dissolution of Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College

This notice is given by the Corporation of Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College in accordance with The Sixth Form College Corporations' (Publication of Proposals) (England) Regulations 2012 and the provisions of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 (the Act) as amended by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 and the Education Act 2011, of the proposal that Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College (Vane Terrace, Darlington DL3 7AU) be dissolved and the property, rights, assets and liabilities of the Corporation transferred to Swift Academies (Croft Road, Hurworth-on-Tees, Darlington, DL2 2JG), a multi-academy trust operating the following academies – Hurworth School, Longfield Academy and The Rydal Academy.

The Corporation proposes dissolution in order to form a new 16-19 academy and to join with Swift Academies to become Inicio Academies (Multi-Academy Trust).

Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College provides sixth form education for 16-19 year old students across a wide curriculum comprising A Level courses with a smaller number of Level 3 Applied General courses, GCSE resit Maths and English courses and a post-A Level BTEC Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art, Design and Media Practice. The current number of students is 1950, all of whom are full time.

The date proposed for the dissolution of Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College as a designated Sixth Form College Corporation and the creation of Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College as a 16-19 academy with Swift Academies is the 1st April 2024 (or as soon as possible thereafter).

All students currently attending Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College will continue their education in the new 16 – 19 academy. There are no plans to alter the education provision currently provided by Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College. A copy of the consultation document relating to these proposals is available free of charge at www.geliz.ac.uk/consultation or via an email to consultation@geliz.ac.uk and will be sent to anyone who requests it. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, consultation on these proposals will run from 20th November to 20th December 2023. All responses and representations must be made by 20th December 2023.

A summary of the consultation and its outcome will be published within two months beginning on the date after the end of the consultation period and the summary will be available free of charge to anyone who requests it.



Your views

The governing body invites you to share your views on the conversion to a 16-19 Academy. The questions below can be answered using our online feedback form at www.geliz.ac.uk/consultation

You may also email your responses to consultation@geliz.ac.uk

All responses must be received by 20th December 2023 to be considered as part of the consultation process.

Consultation questions:

Your name:

Your organisation (if applicable):

Postcode:

Please select the category(ies) that best describe you:

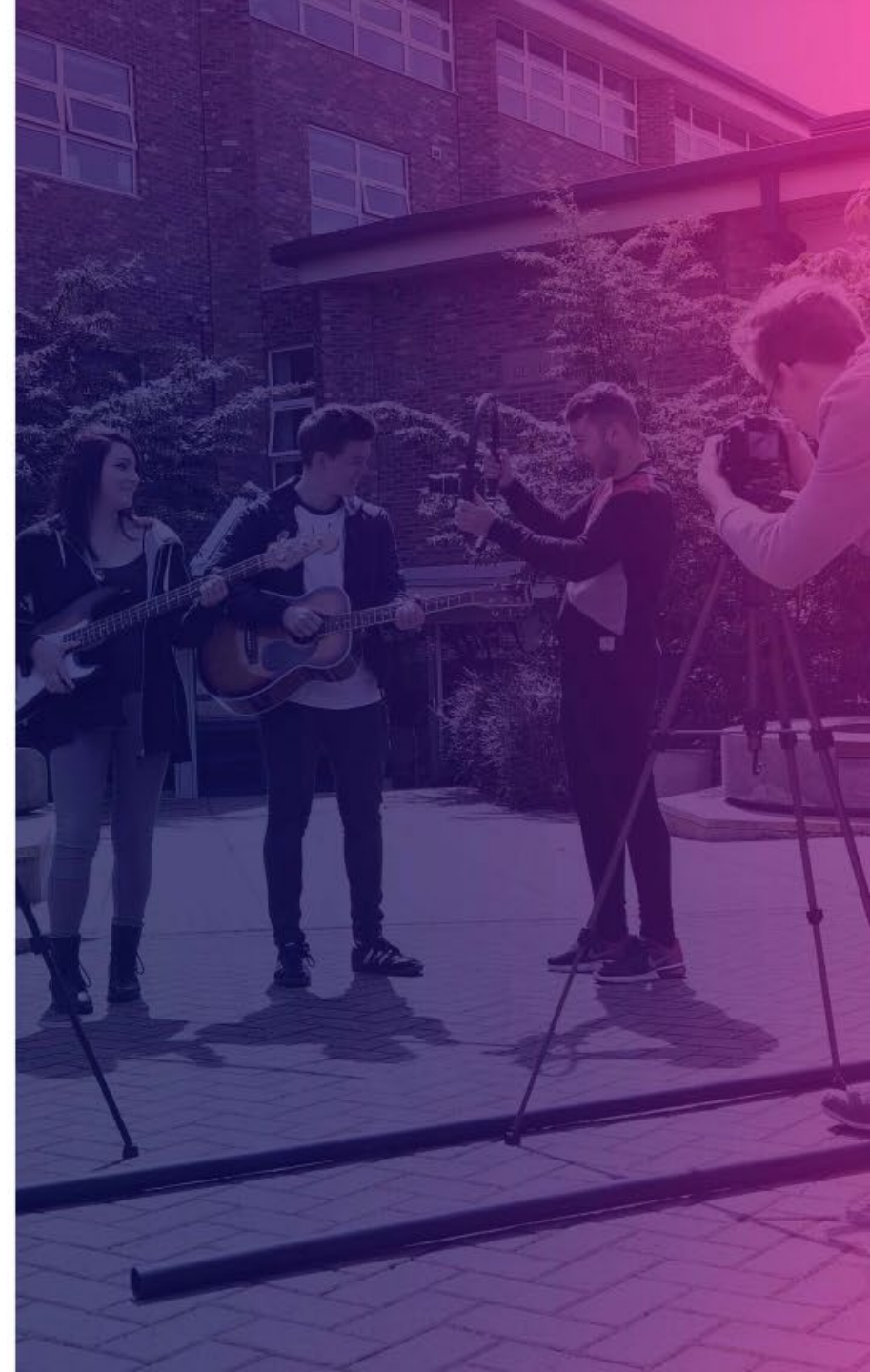
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> QE student | <input type="checkbox"/> Other FE institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prospective QE student or parent/carers/guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> HE institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> QE staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Employer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trade Union representative | <input type="checkbox"/> Local government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Carer/Guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> Government body |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

1. Do you support the proposed conversion of QE to a 16-19 Academy?

Yes/No/Unsure

2. Do you have any views on how QE and Inicio could best serve the needs of the local communities and businesses?

Please provide details





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