

31 October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Post-16 consideration at JWS**

We are writing to inform you that we will soon be engaging in a consultation to explore the advantages and disadvantages of continuing with post 16 provision at John Willmott School.

Back in 2019, school leaders were tasked with growing post-16 numbers. This is because the numbers of students in the Sixth Form were low and, financially, growing the offer was not feasible without increased numbers. The Trust bought wholeheartedly into the vision of maintaining an 11-18 offer. However, the numbers have not increased as planned. Indeed, given the growing numbers of other providers that cover the areas where our pupils live, the numbers have decreased.

Post 16 numbers have been monitored closely and our Trust, the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership (ATLP) have continued to support school leaders during the period of declining numbers so that our children continue to benefit from our post-16 offer. Unfortunately, the poor uptake at the start of this academic year has meant we must revisit what our provision should look like in future years. Our school is of course, part of a larger learning family and the ATLP, who were able to step in last month and offer courses at The Coleshill School and The Arthur Terry School to a small group of students who wanted to remain together.

The final decision about the post 16 provision at John Willmott, sits with the DFE's Regional Director for the West Midlands. Before he can take such a decision, we will engage in a meaningful stakeholder consultation to explore the advantages and disadvantages of continuing with post-16 provision at John Willmott. This will be open to anyone who wishes to respond but will focus particularly on our school community – staff, parents, current and former pupils. This will open shortly and will be communicated with you over the next couple of weeks.

We are very keen to hear from you. Whatever the outcome, we strive to expand and continue to develop the highest quality provision. Please be assured, we will continue to offer all of our students an impartial and rigorous careers guidance programme to support our children in their next steps to further education.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs N Gould**  
**Acting Headteacher**