



The Arthur Terry Learning Partnership
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Richard Gill CBE NPQH, NLE, FRSA
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Dear Parents and Carers

Post-16 consideration at Nether Stowe School and Sixth Form.

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 Nether Stowe School.

When the school joined the ATLP family of schools, the Trust bought wholeheartedly into the vision of maintaining an 11-18 offer. We understand the small size of the Sixth Form at Nether Stowe School is, for many students and their families, its' appeal.

However, cuts to educational budgets over the past few years mean that maintaining the courses we would like to offer, is challenging. School leaders have worked hard with recent cohorts to grow the Sixth Form. The numbers have not increased as planned. Growing – or even maintaining - the offer is not feasible without increased numbers.

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 low uptake at the start of this academic year and low rate of applications this year has meant we must revisit what our provision should look like in future years. We currently have less than 25 students in year 12 which means that our average class size is 5 students. This constitutes a significant financial burden on the school's budget.

The final decision about the Post-16 provision at Nether Stowe School, sits with the Department for Education'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.

We know that this consultation will cause anxiety for the current Year 12 students, and we wish to stress that we are committed to these students and will ensure that these students are able to complete their chosen courses. It is not the intention to fully close the Sixth Form in September as Nether Stowe School was chosen by these students, and we will ensure that they are able to complete their studies as planned. We will ensure that these students, the pride of our school are supported to continue to their next steps. In the situation where Nether Stowe is unable to provide them with the teaching that they require to complete their courses we will be leaning into our network of partnership schools as well as other local providers to ensure that they can complete their education.

A large part of the consultation will consider our responsibility to the current Year 11's who have applied to study here in September 2025. We will take account of their views and other possible options for their Post-16 education. We must stress however that currently, too few have applied to the Sixth Form for it to be a viable option.

This consultation will be open to anyone who wishes to respond but will focus particularly on our school community – staff, parents, current and former pupils. This consultation will open on the **27th of February until the 27th March 2025**. The link will be available on the school website.

We are very keen to hear from you. Whatever the outcome, we will continue to develop the highest quality provision for all our students. Please be assured, we will continue to offer all our students an impartial and rigorous careers guidance programme to support our children in their next steps to further education. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. If you have any views, you wish to express and share with us please complete the consultation form located on our school website.

On behalf of Arthur Terry Learning Partnership.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K Jones', written in a cursive style.

Ms K Jones
Headteacher