



14 June 2024

Dear parents and carers

Re: Closure of The Dukeries Academy Sixth Form 2025

In consultation and partnership with colleagues at Academy Transformation Trust, I have taken the decision to close The Dukeries Academy Sixth Form from September 2025. From this date The Dukeries Academy will become an 11-16 academy. This year we will not be taking on a new cohort for sixth form study in Year 12. Students in the current Year 12 will be unaffected by the decision and will continue with their Year 13 studies at the academy.

Increasingly, small sixth forms, such as ours, cannot sustainably offer the breadth of curriculum and wide range of subjects that pupils both want and need to progress to their chosen pathway of higher education, apprenticeships, training or employment.

Although this decision was exceptionally challenging, it is the right decision for our pupils. My responsibility is to ensure that The Dukeries Academy not only develops into an outstanding school, but also remains in a strong position to serve our community for generations to come. In this decision, much needed additional capacity will, over time, become available for our pupils at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. This means that the experience of pupils in the main academy will then improve further, because of increased staffing capacity and curriculum resource.

Our work with the DfE and external partners on our new building is moving at pace, and we expect, by the time the project is complete, to be a full and thriving 11-16 academy, at our capacity of 900 pupils. Due to the increases we are seeing in pupil numbers, with more families locally choosing us than ever before, there will be no reduction or changes to the staffing capacity here at the academy.

As part of the closure process, we have worked with local partner schools with large sixth form provisions to ensure that all Year 11 pupils who have secured a conditional offer at The Dukeries Sixth Form, have a place to accept for further study next year.

I am aware that for some families and members of the community, this will be difficult news. The Dukeries Academy Sixth Form has been a part of the local community for many years, and I know that many of our parents attended it themselves. Whilst I recognise and acknowledge the disappointing nature of this decision, I am also confident that the decision will allow us to more quickly build on the significant progress we have made already this academic year in becoming a truly great school that all of us can be proud of.

If you have queries or concerns, please contact the academy and direct communication via the PA to the Principal.

Kind regards



Mr M Brett
Head of Academy