



Consultation Document

Proposal to change the age range at
Boroughbridge High School, by ceasing the Sixth
Form Provision
from 31 August 2024

January 2024

OFFICIAL

This paper sets out details of a proposal by North Yorkshire Council to change the age range at Boroughbridge High School, by ceasing the Sixth Form Provision with effect from 31 August 2024. It gives the background to the proposal. There will be a public meeting on Thursday 8 February at 6pm at Boroughbridge High School.

Background

At a recent meeting of the federated Governing Board of Boroughbridge High School and King James's School, Knaresborough it was resolved to ask North Yorkshire Council to consult on the permanent closure of the Sixth Form at Boroughbridge High School.

Boroughbridge High School has worked in collaboration with other schools since 2016 to ensure that students have access to a wide post 16 offer and to try to maintain Sixth Form provision at the school. Initially they collaborated with Easingwold and Thirsk Schools, but this collaboration ended when Easingwold School joined the Outwood Multi Academy Trust. Boroughbridge High School has subsequently moved to post-16 collaboration with King James's School, Knaresborough. This partnership was formalised through a federation of the two schools in January 2021.

In response to falling numbers of sixth form pupils, and following consultation in Autumn 2021, the decision was made in Spring 2022 by the federated Governing Board to temporarily suspend entries to the Sixth Form at Boroughbridge High School for two years to take effect from September 2022.

Due to the demographics of the area, numbers on roll at Boroughbridge High School have decreased, making it more difficult to maintain viable class sizes at post-16 in terms of quality of experience, subject breadth and financial viability.

Pupil Numbers

The numbers on roll at Boroughbridge High School have been falling for several years as shown in the table below. This is partly due to an overall general reduction in the numbers of local children in the catchment area, with particularly smaller cohorts for entry in 2018/19 and 2020/21.

Pupil numbers for 11-16 and 16-18 year olds at Boroughbridge High School from academic year 2013/14 to 2023/4 and forecast pupil numbers to 2027/28

Year	Y6 Feeder Cohort in catchment schools	Pupil numbers Y7 –Y11	Pupil numbers 6th form	Total pupil roll	Estimated additional pupils from housing	Total pupils incl. estimated housing yield
2013/14	130	625	131	756		
2014/15	123	613	115	728		
2015/16	120	585	88	673		
2016/17	134	576	78	654		
2017/18	126	511	57	568		
2018/19	99	439	53	492		
2019/20	129	429	52	481		
2020/21	107	411	34	445		
2021/22	128	412	12	424		
2022/23	137	434	4	438		
2023/24	128	464	0	464		
2024/25	132	474	0	474	11	485
2025/26	127	505	0	505	22	527
2026/27	127	502	0	502	32	534
2027/28	150	514	0	514	43	557

The school population is now stabilising and is projected to increase in future. But even if all A level students could be retained at Boroughbridge High School, the Governing Board does not feel that numbers would be large enough to provide a high quality post-16 provision both in terms of curriculum and experience, or that it would be financially viable.

Housebuilding in the area may have an impact on the size of the intake to the school, but this impact is expected to be slow, and it could be some years before the school returns to its previous size.

Funding

Pupil numbers primarily determine the funding for school budgets. The funding model for post-16 education has changed in recent years and now favours larger Sixth Forms than Boroughbridge High School has ever had. Historically, funding intended for those in years 7 to 11 at the school to some extent subsidised the provision of a Sixth Form, but this has become increasingly unsustainable as schools have faced increasing cost and funding pressures over recent years.

Standards

In May 2023 Ofsted judged the overall effectiveness of Boroughbridge High School as 'Requires Improvement', with the quality of education rated as 'good', behaviour and attitudes as 'requires improvement', personal development as 'good' and leadership and management as 'requires improvement'. This followed previous overall judgements of 'Good' in 2012, confirmed by a short inspection in 2016 and an initial (section 8) inspection in 2022. This latest Ofsted report sets out what the school needs to do to improve, as well as its existing strengths. School leaders, governors and the Local Authority will continue to work together on school improvement taking account of these recommendations.

Staffing

The school has advised that there would be no changes to staffing as a result of the proposed permanent closure of the Sixth Form.

Alternative sixth form provision in the local area

In September 2023, out of 62 students who had attended Boroughbridge High School in Year 11, 84% chose to remain in education, with 65% of these following vocational courses. Those studying Level 3 courses (A Level/BTEC) went to York College (12), Harrogate Grammar (5), St. Aidan's (<5), King James (<5) and Thirsk (<5).

In September 2022, out of 91 students who had attended Boroughbridge High School in Year 11, 89% chose to remain in education, with 51% of these following vocational courses. Those studying Level 3 courses (A Level/BTEC) went to York College (20), St. Aidan's (9), King James (8), Ripon Grammar School (<5) and Harrogate Grammar (<5).

If they choose to stay within the Federation, Year 11 students at Boroughbridge High School have opportunities during the year to meet with the King James's School post-16 team, in order to secure a smooth transition from Year 11 to Year 12. King James's School, Knaresborough was last inspected by Ofsted in January 2023 (section 8 inspection) which judged the school as continuing to be a good school. The report states 'Students in the sixth form flourish. There is a broad range of subjects available. Pastoral support for sixth-form students is also highly effective.' The Sixth Form is based in a new purpose-built centre, opened in September 2019.

Transport

Boroughbridge High School run a free minibus service from Boroughbridge High School to King James's School at the beginning and end of the school day so that sixth form students can, if they wish, travel initially to Boroughbridge High School. Direct buses also run from the Boroughbridge catchment area to St. Aidan's & St. John Fisher Associated Sixth Form in Harrogate, and to York College, and there are also public transport services to Knaresborough, Harrogate and York.

North Yorkshire Council provides assistance with transport to sixth form or college to students who qualify. To qualify for assistance with transport to sixth form or college, the following applies:

- students must be over 16 and under 19 on 1 September 2023 and live in North Yorkshire
- students must be attending the nearest sixth form or further education college to their home address or the sixth form of the secondary school which is recognised as the normal school for their home address
- the course attended must be full-time for instance, more than 12 hours a week
- the sixth form or college is the nearest establishment offering a course that the Council consider suitable to a student's career choice, or that is a pre-requisite for entry into higher education (see below for more details)
- the nearest sixth form or college is more than three miles from the home by the shortest walked route
- students must have agreement from their parent or guardian to pay for the pass

Transport assistance needs to be renewed annually and is not provided for students on apprenticeships or work placements.

Further details are available at:

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-and-college-transport/transport-sixth-form-or-college>

The Proposal

For the reasons above it is proposed to change the age range at Boroughbridge High School, from 31 August 2024, by ceasing the Sixth Form Provision.

What Happens Next?

Your views about this proposal are welcomed. You can either complete and return the attached response sheet, or submit an online response

Paper responses should be returned to North Yorkshire Council at the address below:

FREEPOST RTKE-RKAY-CUJS
Boroughbridge High Sixth Form Proposal
Strategic Planning
North Yorkshire Council
County Hall
NORTHALLERTON
DL7 8AE

Online responses may be submitted by following this link:

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/b3zisy>

Responses to the consultation will be published on the Council's website. Your personal details, and those of others you may refer to, will not be published.

The closing date for responses is 5pm on 1 March 2024

All responses to the consultation received by this date are scheduled to be considered by the Council's Executive on 19 March 2024.

If the Council's Executive decides to proceed with the closure proposal, then statutory notices would be published in the local press on 4 April 2024. These notices would provide a further four weeks for representations to be made. A final decision is then scheduled to be taken by North Yorkshire Council's Executive in May or June. If agreed, the sixth form provision would cease from on 31 August 2024.

Anticipated Key Dates

All dates are subject to approvals at each stage.

Consultation opens	19 January
Public meeting	Thursday 8 February at 6pm at Boroughbridge High School
Consultation closes	1 March
Council's Executive considers consultation response	19 March
Statutory Notices published (4 weeks for representations to be made)	4 April – 2 May
Final decision by Council's Executive	May or June
Proposed implementation date	31 August 2024

Boroughbridge High School Sixth Form Consultation

This is a consultation on proposals to change the age range at Boroughbridge High School, by ceasing the Sixth Form Provision from 31 August 2024.

We are collecting this information for the purpose of gathering views on the proposal. Your personal data will not be published or passed to any other organisation unless a legal obligation compels us to do so.

Reading our Privacy Notice will help you understand how and why we process your personal data. www.northyorks.gov.uk/privacy-notices

Do you have any comments about the proposal?
(Please do not disclose any personal information in your answer)

What is your interest/status? Parent / Governor / Teacher / Community / Other

Other (please state)

Name of school:
(if applicable)

To confirm your proximity to school and to prevent duplicate responses we are asking you to provide your name and address. This information will be removed from any analysis or reports.

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

To help us assess whether we have provided clear information, please let us know whether you found this consultation easy to understand? **Yes / No**

Please send this response sheet to the following "FREEPOST" address. You do not need to use a postage stamp.

FREEPOST RTKE-RKAY-CUJS
Boroughbridge High Sixth Form Proposal
Strategic Planning
North Yorkshire Council
County Hall
NORTHALLERTON
DL7 8AE

Or to submit your response online go to:

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/b3zisy>

To be received by no later than 1 March 2024