

Hoe Valley School

Consultation on the future of HVS Sixth Form



November 2025

INTRODUCTION

Hoe Valley School is launching a public consultation regarding the future of the school's Sixth Form provision.

The purpose of this consultation is to share information about Hoe Valley's plans for the Sixth Form with stakeholders and members of the public and to seek opinion on it.

ABOUT HOE VALLEY SCHOOL

Hoe Valley School is a secondary academy which opened in September 2015 under the Government's Free School's Programme. Our published admissions number (PAN) on opening was 120 students in each year group from Year 7 - 13.

The strong values of our school and our unrelenting focus on inspirational teaching ensure our students are happy, confident learners who make good progress. In December 2018, we announced our decision to defer the opening of our sixth form provision to allow us to focus on getting our first GCSE groups through their exams. The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020 meant that our focus on our existing students was completely the right decision.

Due to a shortage of school places in Year 7 - 11 locally, the school admitted 150 students into Year 7, instead of our PAN (published admission number) of 120 from September 2018, when we moved into our purpose-built school building. We were pleased to make these extra spaces available for children in our most local community and this increase meant that by September 2022, we had 5 year groups of 150 students (750 students, instead of our originally planned 600 students in Year 7 – 11). Our building's planned capacity of 840 students did not leave us with adequate space to open our Sixth Form, which formed a critical part of our original school mission.

In April / May 2022, the school subsequently issued a public consultation on the expansion of the school premises to allow the school to continue to provide a state of the art education to students by opening the deferred Sixth Form, offering places to up to 120 students in each year group of Year 12 and 13.

WHAT IS THE SCHOOL CONSIDERING?

On the launch of the school's Sixth Form in September 2023, we had aimed to recruit 120 students into Year 12, with continued recruitment of a further 120 students year on year to create and maintain a financially viable Sixth Form provision. This was in line with our vision of small class sizes to maximise student support both academically and personally.

Unfortunately, we were not able to recruit the number of students anticipated year on year, despite much effort and marketing from our team, including the opening of our purpose-built Sixth Form facility within our school building. This resulted in the school falling into significant deficit, impacting not only the viability of the Sixth Form but the effective operation of the school as a whole. As a result, in late September 2025, we announced to our current parents that we would pause recruitment for September 2026 and that we would not be taking on any new applications for the Sixth Form until further notice, including regretfully, internal students currently in Year 11. We made this decision at this point to provide stability to our current Year 11 students by allowing them to make decisions about their further education with certainty.

The school had planned for the continued growth in Sixth Form student numbers for entry in September 2025, and had budgeted for this; however disappointingly, our actual student numbers shrank rather than grew. To ensure the financial stability of our very successful main school of Year 7 - 11, we now have to consider the phased closure of the school's Sixth Form provision going forward.

We have been extremely disappointed that we have not been able to capitalise on the expected appetite for places in our Sixth Form, and uptake from our own internal students has been nominal. The school now must ensure that the quality of education of our main school students does not suffer as a result of the low Sixth Form numbers recruited and the financial impact on the school's budget that this brings.

A phased closure of our current Sixth Form will provide greater financial certainty with regard to budget planning, which covers a 5 year period. This financial certainty, in turn, allows us to focus our resources on continuing to improve the outcomes of students in Year 7 - 11 where we are successful.

We are fully committed to seeing our current Sixth Form students through to the end of their expected time with us and continuing to ensure the same high-quality provision they have

already experienced.

DATA

YEAR 12 INTAKE	ACTUAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS	NUMBER OF HVS INTERNAL STUDENTS IN COHORT
September 2023	18	5
September 2024	59	24
September 2025	39	16

HOW WILL THIS DECISION BE REACHED?

The findings of the consultation will be summarised in a report which will then be considered by the Board of Governors of the school, taking into account the views of a range of stakeholders. Depending on the decision made by the Board of Governors, the report will then be submitted to the Department for Education for consideration by the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC), alongside a business case. The RSC will analyse the report and the business case and take a decision accordingly.

If the decision is made by the Board of Governors to pursue the closure of HVS Sixth Form, no further students will be recruited, and the phased closure of the facility will commence from September 2026 when our current Year 12 students will continue their studies throughout Year 13, taking their external examinations in the Summer of 2027. Following their departure in July 2027, the full closure of the Sixth Form would then be actioned.

HOW CAN YOU RESPOND TO THIS CONSULTATION?

You can respond through the completion of a short online form which can be completed and submitted online via our school website at <https://www.hoevalleyschool.org/join-us/sixth->

[form-consultation](#). If you prefer, you can download a version from our website to complete and return by post to Future of Hoe Valley School Sixth Form Consultation Response, Hoe Valley School, Egley Road, Woking. GU22 0NH.

The consultation will run from Friday 7th November 2025 until Friday 5th December 2025 inclusive. The consultation period will close at 9am on Friday 5th December 2025.

Please be advised that we will note all comments received but will not be able to respond to all responses individually.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS YOU CAN VIEW ON OUR WEBSITE

Please go to <https://www.hoevalleyschool.org/join-us/sixth-form-consultation>;

1. Future of Hoe Valley School Sixth Form Consultation Response Survey
2. A copy of this Consultation document
3. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - this document will be updated with information as questions are raised from stakeholders