

Archbishop Holgate's School

**A Church of England School Founded 1546
A Science and Applied Learning College**

***Post-16 provision:
our plans for the future***

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VALUES

an ethos which lives Christian values into being

CARE

effective care and support with learners valued as individuals

ACHIEVEMENT

maximum achievement for each learner at all levels

Post-16 provision: our plans for the future

Introduction

Archbishop Holgate's School is committed to offering post-16 provision with a focus on applied learning, as it moves into the next phase of its development after a period of increasing popularity, examination success, a very successful inspection and increasing recognition at national level.

The Government is encouraging high performing specialist schools, ours included, to develop post-16 applied learning. We see this as right for learners in East York and a natural development of our strengths. We are therefore keen to respond to this opportunity to help enrich overall educational provision in the City.

Our plans are for a learning centre offering the highest quality educational provision. We seek maximum achievement for each learner at all levels. Central to our vision is a structured, secure learning environment, with strong pastoral care and strong support for learners. We want to build on the ethos and values of our Church of England foundation through an atmosphere within which each learner is known and valued, and developed to his or her full potential. We therefore want, through this new learning centre, to extend to post-16 learners the combination of Christian values, care for the individual and maximum achievement that is at the heart of the school's appeal and success.

We see this new learning centre as the focus of a new collaborative partnership, offering a new model for 14-19 learning across York, and raising the status of applied learning for the benefit of both learners and the future economic development of the City. This booklet forms a consultation document on our proposals. Please read it carefully and respond. Your views are very important. A reply form is attached: please return it directly to the school.

Responses will be considered by Governors at their September meeting, with a view to a determination being made about the way ahead. The closing date for

responses is *Friday 21st September 2007*. Early replies will be particularly welcome.

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Why are we seeking to offer post-16 provision now?

The Government is committed to raising the participation age from 16 to 18. Continuity of provision from 14 to 19 is central to this. We see it as important for Archbishop Holgate's pupils to have the same opportunity for continuity post-16, whether partly or fully on-site, as those of other nearby schools.

Both pupils and parents regularly tell us they would like to see Archbishop Holgate's offering post-16 provision, to enable learners to continue studying in the environment they know, in which they have been successful, in which they have confidence, and within which they feel they will continue to succeed.

Both the Government and the Local Authority are committed to further raising attainment, increasing provision at level 1 and level 2, and increasing the provision of applied learning. Our proposals address all three issues.

A number of skill areas have been identified as critical for future employment in York and central to the future economic prosperity of the City over the coming years. These skill areas are central to our proposals.

There is increasing emphasis on addressing travel to learn issues through local provision, and increasing emphasis on learners having genuine choice as to where they study and what kind of institution they study in – school or college.

Archbishop Holgate's has not always been 11-16. Although the 1985 reorganisation of secondary education in York left Archbishop's without post-16 provision, post-16 education has long been a key feature of this ancient school, with very large numbers of pupils over many generations continuing their education at Archbishop Holgate's to 18 or 19.

Not least importantly, we are one of a small number of schools nationally which have been invited by the Government to consider adding post-16 education. The invitation is a result of our status as a high performing school and our second specialism in applied learning, and carries with it a presumption that our application to offer post-16 provision will be successful.

We have commissioned an independent feasibility study into the provision of post-16 education at Archbishop Holgate's. This makes a strong case for post-

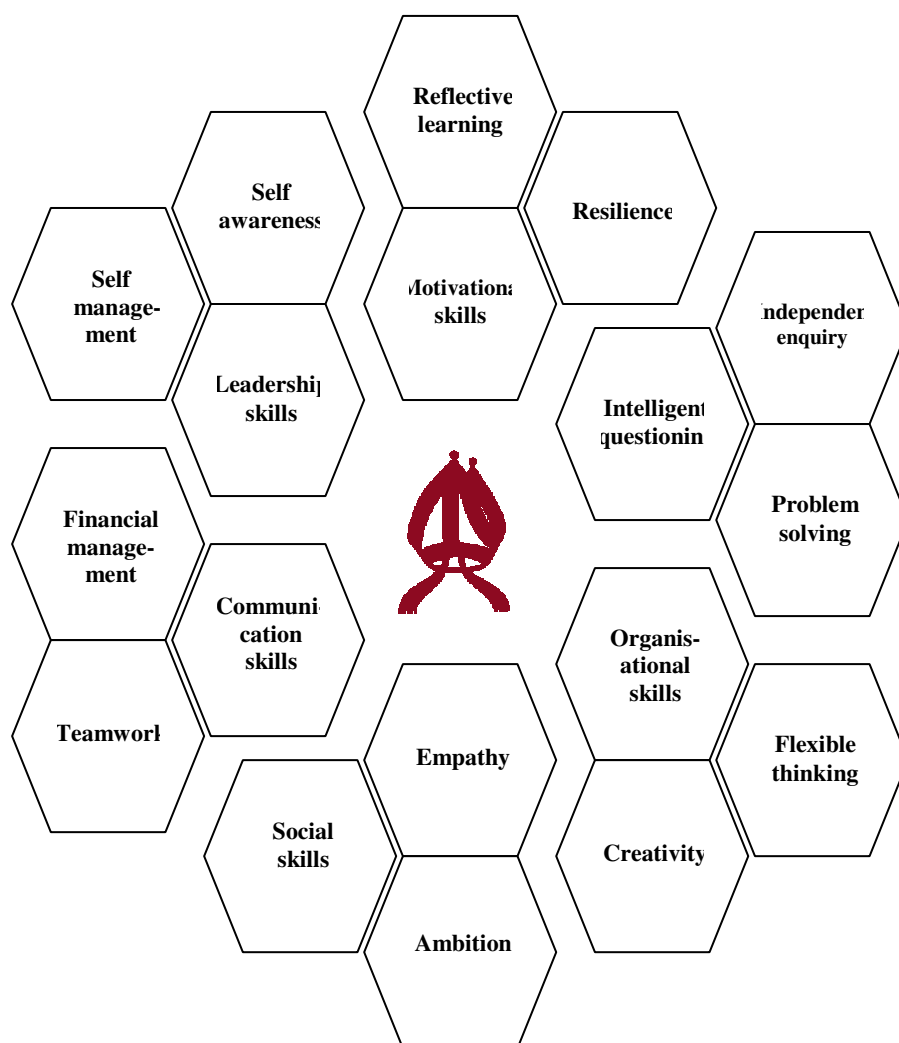
16 provision at the school with a focus on applied learning and it is in the light of the study that the following proposals have been drawn up.

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Why post-16 provision with a focus on applied learning?

There are several reasons for this. There is currently low provision for applied learning generally in York schools post-16. Our second specialism in applied learning makes this a natural direction for the school. So does the fact that, both nationally and locally, there is increasing emphasis on offering additional applied learning and on ensuring its status is high. A number of areas of applied learning are projected to be central to the city's economic future and to future employment: these are at the heart of our proposals.

We also see great benefit for learners. The new Diplomas form a key part of our proposed provision: these both develop academic knowledge, and apply it, to ensure relevance and deepen understanding. Research also confirms that applied learning skills (see below) are central both to higher education and to work, thus ensuring our learners will be well equipped for the challenges of flexible working and continuous re-skilling essential for employability and success in the 21st century.



The Learning Centre curriculum

We plan a new curriculum model based on *lines of learning*. This curriculum model offers a combination of

- *coherence* – studies directly related to the line of learning;
- *breadth* – genuine opportunity for a broad approach through which learners can keep options and pathways open;
- *flexibility* – real support for learners in pursuing their own specialist interests and progressing at a pace appropriate to the individual; and
- *stretch and challenge* – to ensure each learner achieves the best results of which he or she is capable.

Central to our plans are

- the new Diplomas (see below), a cutting edge qualification which is planned to replace a large number of existing qualifications, challenge ‘A’ Levels, and equip learners with the skills for both further study and employment. Archbishop Holgate’s is central to the city’s introduction of this new qualification.
- a Baccalaureate diploma qualification, combining the best of the International Baccalaureate and ‘A’ Levels, and including independent and self-directed applied learning alongside specialist study.
- core studies including Philosophy and Belief; Physical Education; a comprehensive careers programme; a full programme of visits, placements and experiential learning; supporting others within the school community, and beyond through charity work; the development of organisation, communication and leadership skills through working with the community and business; and personal enrichment through a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities.
- traditional ‘A’ Level qualifications, offered in partnership with All Saints, Fulford and York College and available through the new Diplomas, a Baccalaureate diploma, or in their own right.
- collaborative working, with some learners able to study parts of their weekly programmes at partner schools and colleges and on placement.

- support from individual learning mentors providing advice and guidance for each learner throughout his or her time at the Centre.

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Lines of learning

We plan over time to offer the following lines of learning. Please note that the details are subject to change depending on take-up, our discussions with our post-16 partner institutions, and the timetable for the introduction of new qualifications. Please also note that each line of learning makes up a full course of study occupying the full week. Within each line, learners will be encouraged to pursue courses offering coherence, breadth, flexibility, stretch and challenge. This may where appropriate include ‘A’ level work.

Business Administration and Finance

Creative and Media

Engineering

Information and Communication Technology

Manufacturing

Public Services

Retail

Science

Sport and Leisure

Society Health and Development

Travel and Tourism

Work Related Learning

a Baccalaureate diploma – subjects from Art & Design, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Design & Technology, English, German, Mathematics, Music, Philosophy & Theology, Physics, Sport Science, and others

plus Core studies (see above)

We are committed to offering a cutting-edge curriculum through a Diploma and Baccalaureate approach, to ensure that academic study is made relevant through being applied to real situations, with learners able to understand the theoretical fully but also use their knowledge to solve problems, implement new projects, or lead others. The new specialised Diplomas have a core of principal learning, but also allow for breadth through learners studying appropriate ‘A’ Level or other level 3 qualifications alongside the principal learning. To be accessible to a wide range of learners, they are being made available at three levels, from level 1 for those still working towards GCSE standard, to level 3, designed to be equivalent to three ‘A’ Levels and to offer real ‘stretch’ and challenge for the most able and committed learners. The new Diplomas are being hailed as the

greatest educational reform taking place anywhere in the world, and we are pleased to be at the forefront of this very important new initiative.

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Some questions answered

How many post-16 learners do we envisage?

Our plans are for a learning centre with a capacity of 160. We plan to pilot a small number of specialist courses from September 2008. The learning centre is expected to open in September 2009 with some 65 learners, building up to its capacity of 160 over the following three years as more courses are offered.

Who will the learners be?

Our forecasts are based on 35% of Archbishop Holgate's learners continuing their education at the school by 2012; 36 learners enrolling at Archbishop's from other institutions in York, the East Riding or further afield by 2012; and a retention rate from Year 12 into Year 13 of 75%.

York College will continue, as now, to be an attractive option for many including independent learners seeking a college atmosphere and those seeking particular course combinations. Those seeking to continue their education in different areas of learning in a school environment will continue to look at other schools offering post-16 provision. Our research suggests that the learning centre at Archbishop Holgate's will be of particular appeal to

- those members of our own school community wishing to continue their learning in a familiar environment they have come to trust;
- the increasing numbers of learners who see the importance of applied learning, its relevance, and the advantages it brings for commitment, motivation, enjoyment and employability;
- the increasing numbers who judge they will make the best progress within the structure and support of a school learning environment;
- those seeking post-16 learning in an environment within which Christian principles are lived into being and within which the spiritual dimension and moral values are of central importance;

- those looking to address travel-to-learn issues by seeking local post-16 provision of high quality.

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How will we provide the space for these additional learners?

We are in discussion with the Learning and Skills Council, the Diocese of York and a firm of architects about a new purpose-built post-16 block, on the Archbishop Holgate's site, to be opened in September 2009. This is being planned to incorporate purpose-designed teaching spaces, the latest specialist equipment, a specialist library and resource centre, and canteen and social areas, all with dedicated use by learners aged 16-19. We believe the plans offer an excellent learning environment, in specialist purpose built accommodation, for those who wish to continue their learning at an outstanding school.

How will it be funded?

The Learning and Skills Council is expected to meet 90% of the cost of new build. The school expects to meet the other 10% of the cost through Foundation Governors income, specialist grants, and earned income.

How will the new facilities support learning?

We are planning a purpose-built, specialist post-16 learning environment with cutting edge facilities, a specialist library resource centre, and full IT enablement, as well as social areas, canteen, and dedicated IT-supported areas for independent private study. We understand that as pupils reach 16 they look for new experiences and challenges, and believe the learning centre will offer an excellently resourced dedicated learning environment of the highest quality for those who embrace change, look forward to the challenge of an applied curriculum, and seek to become independent learners in an adult learning environment supported by committed staff at an "outstanding school".

What links are planned with other schools and colleges?

Collaboration has long been a key feature of the school's work; further development of partnership working is at the heart of the proposal. We are already in active discussion with our three nearest 11-18 schools – All Saints, Fulford and Huntington. York College has also agreed to work with us. Central to the plan is a common timetable structure to offer the greatest possible

choice of courses. We believe this provides excellent opportunities for learners and a strong model of collaborative partnership for the City.

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Will the addition of post-16 provision bring with it any staff changes?

Our staff are committed and well qualified and already bring with them significant post-16 expertise and experience. As staff leave and are replaced, the school is already ensuring that staff joining the school further strengthen and develop the school's expertise in applied learning and post-16 provision. A number of additional staff will be required in line with the additional learner numbers; where the curriculum calls for particular expertise or experience, the school will therefore have the flexibility to appoint according to need.

What size does the school plan to be in the future?

One of the aspects of Archbishop Holgate's that parents and pupils value is its size – small enough for the pupils in each year group to be known as individuals and cared for as individuals. The school therefore plans to retain year groups in Years 7 to 11 at their current size of 162 and has no plans for further expansion.

What about those seeking level 1 or level 2 qualifications?

Work Related Learning is designed as an individualised programme of study with strong support and individual guidance to appeal to those working towards entry level and GCSE-level qualifications. Its flexible approach makes it particularly suitable for those with special or individual need.

Is the school well placed to offer post-16 provision?

Our 2007 Ofsted inspection judged us as “outstanding” – the highest category, awarded to only one school in twelve. Ofsted also judged as outstanding both the school's leadership and the school's capacity for further development. Our 2007 Church Schools inspection report also judged us “outstanding”. Parental confidence and parental support is good. We are fully subscribed in all year groups. Our National Test results and our GCSE results are strong. We are one of a small handful of schools nationally with three specialisms – Science, Applied Learning and Leading Edge – and also have National Support School and National Leader of Education status. The commitment of staff, Governors

and parents to post-16 provision is high. The school is strong and secure and well placed to extend its provision again to post-16 learners.

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What are the next stages?

At the close of this consultation, Governors will review the overall plans for post-16 provision, then proceed to the publication of a statutory notice, followed by referral to the City of York Council and LSC for approval.

What criteria will be used for approval?

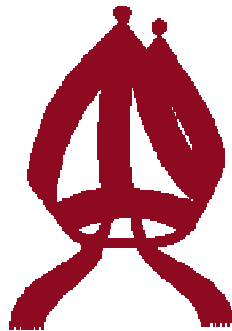
The criteria for decision-making are clearly laid out in legislation. They focus on the Government's desire for "the best schools" to be able to expand to raise standards and boost opportunities; increase diversity of provision; increase choice; meet the wishes of parents; address travel to learn issues and improve accessibility; and encourage partnership work with other providers. In particular, Government guidance makes it clear that "there should be a strong presumption in favour of the approval of proposals for a new sixth form where the school is a high performing specialist school that has opted for a vocational specialism". Archbishop Holgate's meets all these criteria.

What do I do now?

Please respond to these proposals using the reply form overleaf. Please return it to the school by 9 am on *Friday 21st September*.

How can I find out more?

A consultation meeting will be held at Archbishop Holgate's School on *Monday 17th September at 7.00 pm*: if you would like to find out more and ask any questions you may have, you will be very welcome. Alternatively, if you have any further questions about our proposals for post-16 provision, or if you would like more information about any specific aspect of our plans, please contact the school. We will be pleased to help.



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