

ANNEX 5

Consultation on post-16 provision at Archbishop Holgate's School Responses

The consultation

Some 1,000 consultation documents were issued, almost all on 24th August 2007, with a closing date of 21st September 2007. The consultation document took the form of a 12-page booklet, accompanied by an introductory letter and a response form. Copies were sent to statutory consultees, including parents, staff, Governors, local schools, local councillors and MP's. In accordance with regulations, copies were also sent to a number of other organisations with an interest in this proposal. A consultation meeting was held on 17th September 2007. The meeting was publicised in the consultation booklet itself, in the introductory letter, in the York Press, and on Radio York and Minster FM. Attendance was around 30. It was described afterwards by a number of attendees as a "good", "positive" meeting. Outcomes of the consultation were as follows:

Do you consider it desirable that post-16 provision is established at the school?

<i>Yes</i>	223	(96%)
<i>No</i>	9	(4%)
<i>Total</i>	232	

Analysis by category

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Parents</i>	147	2
<i>Staff</i>	55	-
<i>Community</i>	21	6
<i>Anonymous</i>	-	1
<i>Total</i>	223	9

Responses not on response forms are reproduced in full in a separate section.

Responses in detail – YES

Total – 223

119 respondents offered additional comments on the response sheet. These are given below. Documents received as part of the consultation are reproduced in full in a separate section. Other respondents offered no additional comments. All of these responses ticked “Yes”.

*Abbreviations have been expanded. Names of individual pupils have been removed. Text has been corrected for obvious errors. Longer responses, marked *, have been summarised, where appropriate using the writer’s original phrasing, to maintain proportionality of space between responses. Detail from staff on internal organisational arrangements etc has been summarised.*

Yes	Post-16 provision at Archbishop Holgate’s School makes excellent reading. Over the years I have been aware of parents’ disappointment at the fact that post-16 provision has not been an option at Archbishop Holgate’s School and know that many parents and pupils would relish this new opportunity at the school – myself included.
Yes	My son would be very interested in staying on at school if his chosen subject is available.
Yes	Having read the consultation document on the plans for post-16 provision, it sounds like a very positive step forward.
Yes	The area is certainly lacking in sixth form provision. Furthermore the possibility of introducing a baccalaureate option would be an important addition to choice for parents in York.
Yes	The pursuit of excellence in education must be strongly supported. I believe your proposal meets this aim.
Yes	This is a very desirable provision in our eyes as it offers 16+ education at the same school the children have attended since they were 11. Also it is this side of town for children coming in from Stamford Bridge.
Yes	The students must be given the independence to progress towards University. The curriculum must provide adequate self learning and give challenges in various areas (not just academic). The school is well equipped to take on these challenges and I wish and support it in its success to provide the post-16 provision.

Yes	I think Archbishop's is a brilliant school and could provide excellent post-16 education. This would be of great benefit to Archbishop's pupils and York in general.
Yes	I particularly welcome the emphasis on applied subjects – I hope that the school will also work hard to encourage its students to go on to higher education where appropriate – this will require dedicated time to working relationship with higher educational institutions.
Yes	We are delighted to learn of the proposals to provide post-16 provision. Particularly welcome to enable students to have continuity in established quality high performing school.
Yes	We are interested in traditional academic A levels for our son as we believe them to be ideal preparation for University. We would be happy if he could take them at Archbishop Holgate's with its supportive staff and Christian ethos. We had expected he would have to go to York College. Keeping an element of RE/PSHCE at 16+ seems a balanced idea.
Yes	I would wholeheartedly support this proposal, viewing it as an opportunity to 'round off and polish up' pupils with valuable life skills making them more useful citizens.
Yes	After having a daughter go on to sixth form college and who so much wanted to stay at Archbishop's to do it, I am delighted that the opportunity will probably be there for my son now when they enjoy a school so much and want to progress.
Yes	A natural progression for parents who are committed to a nurturing, well-rounded education.
Yes	I was very pleased to receive the booklet on post-16 provision. It is reassuring to know that my daughter would be able to continue her schooling at Archbishop's and not have to go elsewhere when she reaches 16.
Yes	Full support. The proposals offer distinctive provision at an outstanding school which is forward-looking, responsive to individual needs, has excellent care and support, and has a strong reputation in the community it serves. The focus on applied learning is a particular strength of the proposal.
Yes	I wish you every success for your plans to provide post-16 provision at your school. Results and popularity of the school are going from strength to strength.

Yes	I strongly support the idea and am very glad that the school recognises the importance of social and employable skills as well as academic skills. I look forward to my daughter joining the programme in a few years' time.
Yes	As soon as possible!
Yes	Good idea. Our daughter would be one of the first to attend and before this option became available she had already said she would not wish to carry on with her studies elsewhere.
Yes	It is a superb opportunity for pupils to further their education in familiar surroundings.
Yes	Smart thinking. This proposal should help all users to access the clear information they need to help to make informed choices.
Yes	I would like to see the opportunity to study traditional A levels at the school.
Yes	An excellent idea. I would be thrilled to see the availability of sixth form at Archbishop Holgate's. I would prefer to maintain my child within the Christian principled environment wherever possible – all the best!
Yes	Great idea to have a sixth form at Archbishop Holgate's. There are not enough places for the 16-18 year olds to study in the east side of York. York Sixth Form College appears almost like a university and will not suit all 16 year olds. Plenty of focus on Science and Engineering please.
Yes	I think it is an extremely good plan to have a sixth form. Continuity of environments and teaching staff are a much desired basis for continued education at Archbishop Holgate's School. My son starts Year 7 this term. I hope he will be able to benefit from this proposal.
Yes	This would be a benefit to the school and would create a further option for our child when reading Year 11. Had this option been available now our other child would have liked to have continued his education at Archbishop Holgate's.
Yes	I would much prefer my child to continue post-16 education in an environment that is familiar and where good relationships have been established with teaching staff and where the standard of education is high.

Yes	It would be a good idea to open a sixth form at Archbishop's. It would be nearer to go. More people would consider staying on at school if they can stay at the same place.
Yes	This is a natural progression of the outstanding work of Archbishop Holgate's School over the last 10 years. To be truly effective as a provider of high quality education Archbishop Holgate's has to break through the artificial barrier set by being only thought of as an 11-16 school.
Yes	I would be interested in this for my son, but only if A levels were an option. He is planning to go to university and therefore A levels would be desirable.
Yes	It gives pupils more choice. My children, however, are interested in taking the traditional A levels.
Yes	Continuity of education at the same site is to be fully supported providing that it is to the required standard – maintaining friendship groups and relationship between parents and the school, local provision, reduced transport. Offering a slightly different post-16 provision to that provided elsewhere would help improve provision across the city – particularly from within a school setting which some pupils might find easier to cope with and also more structured than perhaps is the case in a non school environment.*
Yes	It will be a major advantage to young people to have continuity of education from 14-19 in a single establishment.
Yes	I think post-16 provision at Archbishop's is an excellent idea. My only concerns are/were that places would still be available at York College for the children (which you have already addressed), and that not too much of the school field will be lost.
Yes	Interested in the Diploma and baccalaureate.
Yes	I would like more information regarding how students will gain entry into the new proposed sixth form – will it be based on catchment, grades, etc?
Yes	Look forward to seeing how this will work with York College to get the most from the choice of courses. Beneficial to be in an environment the students/teachers are familiar with – less upheaval with less changes. You have some excellent teachers – all should benefit from the expansion.

Yes	Excellent for the future of the school.
Yes	A school that provides outstanding education for the full range of its students at 11-16 should be given the opportunity to build excellent post-16 provision working in partnership with other sixth forms. The section on the Learning Centre curriculum in your proposals on page 6 is particularly interesting and innovative. We are fully supportive of the introduction of post-16 provision at Archbishop's. Thank you for such detailed and widespread consultation.
Yes	I fully support any further education possible. Having post-16 provision at our school is very important to the future of our children. Both of my boys have expressed an interest in higher education already.
Yes	Fantastic idea.
Yes	After experiencing the unacceptable manner in which York Sixth Form College operates, I would be delighted to think that my daughter could remain at Archbishop's to complete A levels. I feel pupils can attain more in an environment they are comfortable and familiar with and where the teachers know the pupils.
Yes	I think post-16 provision is a brilliant idea.
Yes	As a family we welcome the possibility of our son continuing his post-16 education in the safe and caring environment he is familiar with and is flourishing in. Ideally we would like him to study a broad base in traditional A levels and would welcome him being able to do these through Archbishop Holgate's School. In principle we feel that new and exciting developments are to take place over a period of time and Archbishop Holgate's School should be congratulated on being at the forefront of this. We feel we need more information as to how it would benefit our son.*
Yes	I agree that the system for post-16 should be instigated for people that request that facility. I do not think that it would help my son and should never be obligatory for people to go to school after 16 years of age.
Yes	We are delighted with this development. We are especially pleased that the school proposes to offer a baccalaureate style qualification. I am sure that the purpose built facility will prove very popular and we are pleased that it will not affect the numbers at the existing school.

Yes	It would be excellent for the school to have post-16 provision.
Yes	Support for this initiative. The range of courses and examinations/qualifications could present teaching and learning (and timetabling) challenges: I guess I would start the scheme with a syllabus that reflected the school's traditional strengths. I wonder if the University would be interested in involvement.
Yes	I fully support the proposals laid out in the consultation booklet. Not over ambitious.
Yes	This would be a more local option reducing travelling time. Pleased post-16 will be an independent unit. Hope for A level Sciences/Maths. Present A level provision is oversubscribed in locality: believe partnership could increase provision. See A level provision as complementary to applied learning as in the school's Science specialism therefore important to develop both. Would strongly support extension of school's Christian ethos into post-16. Partnership working would give the student a small secure base at Archbishop's and guide their access to larger institutions.
Yes	York Training Centre is happy to work as a partner to further learner choice and support the NEET (Not in Education Employment or Training) agenda within the city.
Yes	My son is now in his last year at school. He would like to go on to A levels. He will have to go to York College unless the school can guarantee what subjects they will be doing September 08. I think continuity within the school is an excellent idea but depending on what subjects are going to be offered. Moving from school to school is not I think a good idea as this is time consuming. If the pupils could be taught all subjects at the school I think is a more beneficial proposal. But on the whole an excellent idea once again.*
Yes	This would provide a more local option for sixth form study – to reduce travelling time and provide continuity in learning in a familiar environment.
Yes	The care taken of 16-18 year olds during this stage of growth and change is absolutely essential for their future. I am sure this care would be as extensive through a post-16 provision provided by Archbishop's as it is now through the rest of the school. I would have no hesitation in encouraging my daughter to continue her education at Archbishop Holgate's and to also send her younger sister in her footsteps.
Yes	I am slightly unsure as to why I have been asked to respond when reading page 8 of the consultation booklet suggests that the decision has already been made.

Yes	For continuity of education within a more 'personal' environment.
Yes	I believe that this is an excellent idea and will help the school in developing even higher educational standards. My daughter is currently in Year 9 so may benefit from this new initiative.
Yes	With the introduction of post-16 provision quality of pastoral care needs to be maintained, additional support staff will be needed and staff will have training needs.
Yes	It will be a good bonus for the school and give a further option for pupils especially those who find sixth form college on Tadcaster Road too daunting.
Yes	Long overdue addition to a brilliant school with excellent education history. The students can only benefit from their 16+ education being continued in familiar surrounding and to the standards they are used to. I have older children also, who have now left the education system, but feel they would have done much better in their 16+ education had they remained at Archbishop's, a place they knew and achieved good grades at rather than moving to what is now the York College.
Yes	Disappointed it was not available for my son.
Yes	I am sure that many of the pupils at Archbishop Holgate's School would love the opportunity to continue at a school they are familiar with for sixth form. Also some who thought about leaving education might consider staying on in a familiar environment.
Yes	My daughter left Archbishop's in 2006. Her travelling time to and from York College is between 3-4 hours per day by bus. For future students the easy access from the city centre or east of York would be a great advantage. However, I would like to see strong links between Archbishop Holgate's and York College remain in place as each will have particular strengths.
Yes	I would be interested to come to the meeting on the 17 th September as I found the booklet a little bit confusing. I would like to know if the school would be offering straightforward A levels. I don't know anything about baccalaureate diplomas, but am very interested to learn more about this.
Yes	It would be very good to have post-16 provision for lower level pupils.

Yes	As a Headteacher and School Improvement Partner, I believe that the high quality of educational achievement offered by Archbishop's should be capitalized on and extended to post-16. Surely our aim is to ensure more children/young people stay on at school to increase their opportunities and future prospects when they leave school. Archbishop Holgate's School demonstrates this capacity pre-16 and if government policy is correct in this context, which I believe it is, successful schools should be given every opportunity to extend that success for the good of all children.
Yes	My daughter will probably consider Archbishop Holgate's School for sixth form depending on what courses are available once it is up and running. Continuity would be good and will be welcomed by students and parents.
Yes	Just some reassurance of how the universities and colleges view the options you are proposing.
Yes	I basically support the principle of choice for both schools and students/families. I am concerned about the impact this move will have on the school community across York. We already have four sixth form schools well distributed geographically across the city and a brand new sixth form College as well as falling pupil numbers in York. Therefore, I question the need for another sixth form.
Yes	I personally think it's a wonderful idea and I know my son feels the same. The only disadvantage as far as my son and his dad feel is that the new college on Tadcaster Road has a big 'pulling' factor, but maybe 4 or 5 years down the line so to speak, with Archbishop's, then maybe they would look at it differently. I beg to differ but will view all the other colleges in the coming months.
Yes	It is good to see that provision is being made for everyone – not just high achievers. Provision across various schools/colleges needs careful thought – teenagers are not the most organized at getting to one place.
Yes	Core studies to include PE: is this the equivalent to a continuation of Core PE (Wed pm recreation, etc)? Is there provision for this as well as post-16 sport based courses?
Yes	Some of the information we have had about the post-16 provision has been quite jargon filled or not really explained the nature of the baccalaureate. I'm not quite sure which direction is advisable for our children. Transport may be complicated. Basically however very much in favour of more options for 16+ and feel the Archbishop's ethos would benefit that age group too.

Yes	An excellent provision which will enable the most vulnerable pupils to benefit from a secure environment in the locality. It will also be able to respond to their personal learning needs.
Yes	An exciting opportunity. It's great to see the school moving forward in this area.
Yes	Very interested in the Business Admin and Finance, and as discussed before, Retail. Concerned that France is moving away from baccalaureate towards A level type of examinations and how this might affect the school – and their reasons for doing so.
Yes	We think this would be a good addition to school – we hope school would not become too large to lose the personal/individual feeling it currently has.
Yes	A fantastic opportunity and I would relish the challenge of working with post-16 students.
Yes	It is essential for the school to develop competitively within York: demographics are a concern with dwindling numbers. The school must ensure that it can provide the very best in its field.
Yes	It has been a joy to work in this school since Sept 2000. It is an outstanding centre for child centred education. The post-16 development will further enhance the opportunities for the students attracted to our school.
Yes	Great opportunity for pupils to further their education in such a caring school.
Yes	It is an exciting thought that Archbishop Holgate's would have a sixth form. It is a perfect opportunity to fill a niche in York City in the light of vocational studies beyond compulsory education.
Yes	I hope that the Christian ethos the school is working hard to develop will be similarly crucial to any post-16 provision. I hope that the academic, etc, demographic of the post-16 cohort will be similar to that of the rest of the school.
Yes	This school has provided excellent provision for all my children who have gone on to further education. It would be fantastic if the school had the facilities to provide it themselves.

Yes	We believe it would be a golden opportunity to extend learning in familiar surroundings, which could create more confidence. It would also take the stress out of travelling across town at peak times in all weather conditions. Altogether a fabulous idea. Wishing you every success.
Yes	An exciting prospect for the pupils and the local community. It will further raise the aspirations of the pupils and provide good role models.
Yes	I am pleased that Archbishop's are considering post-16 education. I would like to believe that both my children could see out their education at this school.
Yes	Pupils are given a fantastic start at a school where they are known and cared for as individuals. This background will allow Archbishop's to maximise the potential of each of those learners for whom school is the best post-16 option.
Yes	Love the idea of a baccalaureate.
Yes	I think this is an excellent opportunity for older students as York is very limited in extended education.
Yes	Happy with the way things are progressing.
Yes	It would be of great benefit to the local children and the community.
Yes	The school is excellent. Both of my children enjoy attending the school and the teaching is a very high standard. Also, we live very close to the school.
Yes	My daughter would love to attend sixth form here as the school has such good results and she would like the continuity of attending the same school.
Yes	I think it is an excellent opportunity to provide a stable extension in familiar surroundings for continued learning prior to University. I was surprised to find there was no sixth form already here.
Yes	I consider it a good thing for this side of the city.

Yes	I have always felt that schools are the best place to have sixth form provision – pupils still need care and encouragement at that age and I feel that Archbishop’s is best placed to provide that.
Yes	Yes. However I do think there is a value in students leaving school to go to a different sixth form or college as remaining in the same environment could lack some challenge. I also have some questions over whether empathy, resilience and ambition can be taught!
Yes	Support aims. Not sure whether our own daughters would stay post-16, depending on their subject choices at the time. Funding?
Yes	As a travel aspect it would be a lot more convenient for the children to travel to. My son is keen to go to sixth form but it may encourage other children who are not so keen to stay on if it was closer to their usual environment and friends.
Yes	The proposals seem to offer a good mixed package, suitable for a variety of students, which is very positive for Archbishop’s sense of social inclusion and cohesion. My Year 8 daughter already identifies strongly with the school and is very excited by the plans.
Yes	Will benefit many pupils and staff.
Yes	Feel it would provide continuity for my daughter who is settled and happy in her existing environment.
Yes	Yes – providing pre-16 courses don’t suffer, sufficient research is conducted at partnership schools to ensure courses offered will be viable, and staffing and financing the new block won’t stretch existing resources.
Yes	I attended the post-16 at my high school and felt I had to move to a different provider it would have been unsettling and disruptive to my study. I feel the continuity is important.
Yes	Consideration must be given to pastoral issues of 17-18 year olds. Staff should be given every opportunity to expand their training and development.
Yes	I feel that pupils attending our school will benefit from being able to continue their education with staff and friends they already know.

Yes	Archbishop's has the potential to offer excellent post-16 opportunities for its pupils and pupils around the city. There is a shortage of vocational courses available for post-16 students across the city. Archbishop's has the commitment, determination and vision to provide these courses and deliver them effectively.
Yes	It sounds very exciting. Do you think post-18 institutions will be in a position to make sense of the new qualifications, will many still be wanting traditional A levels, and is this going to make it more difficult for students to progress beyond school? I would also have some concerns if some subjects had to be delivered on another site /school, with the possible fragmentation of academic and pastoral oversight, not to mention transport and social/friendship issues. Having said that, I think it's definitely time Archbishop's had a sixth form (again!) and it would be a great opportunity to build on the excellent progress the school has made over the last few years.
Yes	It is important to have strong links with York College and other schools with sixth forms to offer full range of options.
Yes	The proposals sound interesting and very promising. I am a little confused about diploma and baccalaureate, and would be grateful for clarification of this as well as for any other information from the consultation evening which, sadly, we were unable to attend. I wish you every blessing and success in your plans.
Yes	I feel that this can only be a positive move for the school.
Yes	As an ex pupil, 1970-76, and now a father, I acknowledge the benefit of further education to the age of 18/19 in the same establishment. This was one of the reasons why my two sons went to Huntington. The new curriculum will give the students better skills sets for when they move on into the work place or university.
Yes	There is broad support for post-16 provision as many parents consider it the "missing element" in the Archbishop's offering. The Governing Body of Osbaldwick Primary School would be encouraged to see this happen as it would enhance what is available on the East of York, a good thing with the advent of Derwenthorpe and Campus 2. There are parental anxieties over children who would need to move or travel to other sites around the city as well as the current lack of facilities. You have the school's support in this move and if we can do anything further to help in moving this forward, we will be happy to do so.
Yes	The school is already seen as 'outstanding' with high expectations of staff and pupils and excellent results so fully support 16+ education. An excellent opportunity to continue to study in an environment they already know. Concerns about extra pupils on site as always been a 'small' school.

Yes	Will benefit both children and school greatly.
Yes	After attending the consultation meeting on 21st September and reading the booklet, we feel this is a fantastic opportunity for the school and pupils. We feel this will enhance what is already a top performing and successful school.
Yes	It would be to our children's benefit to continue their education in such excellent programme of education in which the individual's progress is key to academic progress. Archbishop Holgate's School is where we want our children to remain until they are 18. A baccalaureate offers a more complete and rounded approach to education and we hope our children benefit from this. Good luck and we support it fully.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Responses in detail – NO</i> <i>Total - 9</i></p> <p>All nine responses in this category offered additional comments. The six comments written on the form are given below in full. Three longer responses set out as separate documents are reproduced in full in a separate section. Abbreviations have been expanded. Text has been corrected for obvious errors.</p>
No	There remains significant room for improvement in how the school currently delivers the very best opportunities to its pupils without looking for distractions. There is already sufficient high quality post-16 provision within York.
No	There is a perfectly good sixth form on Tadcaster Road – no need. Not fully inclusive – there are high performing and low performing needs in the city.
No	I welcome the desire of the school to engage students not in education, employment or training. I feel many of the proposed courses are not viable and certainly not on the scale envisaged in the proposals booklet. There will be overcapacity in post-16 provision in York as the student numbers fall and the new specialised Diplomas will dilute the numbers on existing A level courses. I am also very concerned that this proposal for post-16 provision will affect the economic viability of existing courses in the city and may actually lead to reduced choice. Finally, I feel this proposal is very divisive of good collaborative working in the city. It seems to be about the expansion of one school at the expense of other schools and colleges at the exact time when we are going into a 10-20% reduction in post-16 learners. It would never have been seriously considered without the “presumption”. This is a strange concept – that there should be a presumption that new provision can be established regardless of the educational or economic justification for it. It is clear we are moving into a period when educational funding will be reduced. This is not the time to expand scarce resources on unnecessary provision.
No	There is an excellent centre for post-16 provision at York College. Demographic changes will result in reduced numbers in the east of the city in the next few years – sixth form provision is not necessary or desirable.
No	I think there are serious concerns about duplication and overprovision of post-16 courses in South and East York (and indeed the city as a whole) especially in view of the demographic projections. Consequently for financial, social and environmental reasons, I cannot support the proposal.
No	There is already excellent provision and children would not be able to stay in their own communities.

***Post-16 provision at Archbishop Holgate's School
Consultation meeting***

17th September 2007 at 7.00 pm

Attendance: 34 including parents and prospective parents; representatives from City of York Learning Culture and Children's Services, Learning and Skills Council, North Yorkshire County Council, York Training Centre, York 14-19 Partnership; one councillor; four members of the Archbishop Holgate's senior leadership team and the Vice-Chairman of Governors (in the chair).

The meeting opened with a presentation on the proposals – local and national imperatives driving the rationale for the proposal; locality-based delivery; partnerships; lines of learning and draft curriculum offer; learner numbers; staffing implications; ethos; new build; finance; and timelines. This was followed by question, answer and discussion, with the following key points emerging.

New qualifications – Diploma courses may last for one year or two, depending on level. The Diplomas have strong support from Government, from employers, and increasingly from Universities. Archbishop Holgate's is leading the city in aspects of the Diplomas. Work is underway on 14 Diplomas; Science is a possible fifteenth. Baccalaureate qualifications occupy a full working week and already have high credibility with Universities. Work based learning is for those working towards basic qualifications and is designed to ensure that lower achieving learners have equal access to appropriate provision.

A Levels – the school believes there is currently good provision for A Level in the locality and has no immediate plans to introduce them; where A Levels form part of a Diploma qualification it plans to offer them through other providers.

Partnership working – collaboration is integral to the proposals; this will increasingly become the norm for all post-16 providers, and experience shows it is a successful way of offering choice. The school has good links with businesses who are positive about the Diploma. The school is committed to maintaining a positive working relationship with York College. Schools in the locality are committed to a collaborative approach. Half-day blocks are envisaged. In the event of oversubscription, the selection process to be followed is to be worked out with partners as part of a city-wide approach.

Ethos and values – maintaining the current ethos, values and expectations is an integral part of the proposal. The school is committed to maintaining these key elements. It is also committed to impartial information, advice and guidance to learners.

Buildings and finance – for capital funding (new build), the school must find 10%. For revenue funding (ongoing staffing and running costs), funding will be attracted in line with learner numbers, courses followed, retention and success. The proposed site for the new Learning Centre is on the east side of the current school. Attention is being paid to parking, and to issues of sustainability in both the building and transport.

In conclusion – a parent summed up the meeting by saying he has originally felt that with a new College in York a Learning Centre might not be needed, but he was fully persuaded that the proposals offered important new provision.

Responses submitted as separate documents

Askham Bryan College

I have read with interest your consultation document proposing post-16 provision at Archbishop Holgate's School. May I offer you our support and best wishes in your new venture. The school indeed has an excellent reputation and can be justly proud of its achievements. To offer extended provision to 18 is a natural step and one which many parents and young people will appreciate. I note with interest your desires to implement the new Diplomas and look forward to working with you in the future.

Canon Lee School

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal to create post 16 provision at Archbishop Holgate's School. We recognise the achievements at Archbishop Holgate's and appreciate the role the school is playing in a number of areas both locally and nationally and recognise the desire of the school to develop further into post 16 provision in the belief that the school can make a positive contribution to the sector within the City. We would like to support the further development of the school however we do not believe that the current proposals are in the best interests of the City or of Canon Lee School students and therefore do not support this proposal.

Students at Canon Lee currently enjoy access to an enormous range of post 16 opportunities mainly at York College but also at other schools and providers in the area. The demographic profile of York post 16 is projected to significantly reduce by some 10% over the next few years which will in itself cause the College and other post 16 schools to review their programmes; the likelihood being a rationalisation of curriculum provision in order to remain cost effective and a real pressure on retaining the same offer. Should the numbers of learners reduce significantly at York College they would not be able to offer the same breadth and depth of opportunities to our students and our students would therefore be disadvantaged. The same would be true for Archbishop Holgate's students who may have wished to access the wider range of courses at York College.

Should the Governing Body at Archbishop Holgate's School decide to proceed with this proposal the pressure on to other 11-16 schools in the City to also develop post 16 education would be likely to increase. The impact on the current providers and especially on York College would be increased as all institutions were faced with a demographic downturn and an increase in provision leading to a further reduction in the range of opportunities available to students from Canon Lee at the College and across the City as institutions were forced to focus on 'cost effective' programmes.

The most recent Strategic Area Review concluded that the post 16 provision in York was appropriate with the current range of provision: 11-16 schools, 11-18 schools and York College. It identified a need to consider developing further opportunities for the small number of students who may go on to be 'NEET' (Not in Employment, Education or Training). The section of the proposal relating to these students is brief and does not appear to reflect any new initiatives to address these issues, as a priority area for the City any additional support for these students should be considered carefully. The early evidence from Burnholme College's 'Stepping Stones' project would suggest that these students can be supported by their local school in their local area post 16 without the need to provide a full post 16 provision.

We are concerned that the proposal appears to suggest that most of the new Diploma courses would be offered by the school even though decisions have yet to be made by the 14-19 partnership as to

where these courses should be offered. Clearly a strategic city wide planned approach is vital to the success of these courses in order to ensure appropriate support and resources and to ensure that cost effective groups are available.

In summary we believe that the proposals would not be in the best interests of Canon Lee students as they would lead to a reduction in their choices and opportunities. We do not believe that the proposals are in the best interests of the City at a time of falling rolls when they appear to largely replicate opportunities which already exist in other institutions. We do however believe that there could be advantages in developing opportunities for collaborative working where this increases opportunities for young people or offers real opportunities for students who would otherwise be unlikely to consider further education.

Fulford School

I gave a preliminary view on this to the Governors of Archbishop Holgate's School last term. The points raised then still stand. The introduction of Specialised Diplomas with effect from September 2008, the priority to provide appropriate courses especially at Levels 1 and 2 to reduce the numbers of NEETs, the projected figures for York showing a fall in student numbers over the next few years in conjunction with the presumption all demonstrate the need for collaboration between all education and training providers. Consequently I can offer support to the proposal to establish post 16 provision at Archbishop Holgate's School with the following riders:

- The Applied/vocational offer is fine, and indeed there is currently a gap in locality based learning at Level 1 and 2 in the East of the City which this proposal will hopefully address.
- It is also right that this is the route that Archbishop Holgate's intend to take and thus avoid duplication of Level 3 courses and meet learner needs.
- The rationale for establishing post 16 provision at Archbishop Holgate's points out the advantages of continuity of learning on site and parental demand. Concern here relates to how this might lead to the call for/establishment of Level 3 courses duplicating provision that already exists and so diluting this especially in light of demographic trends. Having said that it was therefore reassuring to hear John Harris state at a 14-19 Planning meeting involving all heads of post 16 provision the LA and the LSC on Monday 9 September 2007 that " Archbishop Holgate's have no plans to introduce and set up "A" level courses".
- I am unclear what is meant by the offer of a Baccalaureate diploma qualification especially in light of information that this cannot be offered within the city except at York College and Huntington (subject to successful application of their joint bid).
- We are happy to work in partnership with Archbishop Holgate's and other post 16 providers regarding traditional "A" level provision especially where some students may pursue a Specialised Diploma at Archbishop Holgate's and then supplement this by following AS courses at Fulford.
- Specialised Diplomas. As your document points out details will be subject to change so whilst agreeing in principle there may be future issues to resolve between schools and the LA regarding which centres should offer which Diplomas and at which level. However these are still currently under discussion at locality level and by the 14-19 Planning Group. Certainly we will wish to offer Diplomas related to our specialism (e.g. ICT) or where we had already expressed this interest to the LA (e.g. Business, Society, Health & Development etc). It is essential that duplication is avoided.
- The LA has pointed out the decreasing number of post 16 students that will emerge over the next few years. This may have an impact on the numbers put forward in these proposals.

Learning City York

York's 14 – 19 Learning Partnership is tasked with strategic development of 14 – 19 provision within the LA area which will enable all young people to access the National Entitlement (to be in place by 2013) and raise participation and progression rates (all young people should continue participate in education to the age of 18 by 2015). Archbishop Holgate's School, along with all York's secondary schools, two Colleges and a consortium of training providers, is a member of the partnership. The Local Authority is the lead strategic partner, working closely with the Learning and Skills Council. These two organisations fund the partnership's activity.

We want to support the school's proposal and have been working with it, and other partners, to develop a strategy which will lead to the successful and efficient delivery of high quality provision across the entitlement. This clearly requires agreement across the partnership on the contribution that each partner will make to that whole city entitlement. This work is continuing. It is, therefore, unfortunate that the rules underpinning the "Presumption" dictate timelines for the school to progress their proposal which conflict with this process. The contribution that partner providers will make to the provision of the lines of learning the consultation document suggests that the school will offer have not yet been agreed within the Partnership.

The remainder of this brief initial response will summarise those elements which we are pleased to see included in the proposal, those about which we are seeking further clarification and those where we would encourage the school to reconsider its plans. John Harris (Headteacher) has attended either group or individual meetings where these issues have already been aired.

Provision at Levels 1 and 2

We were disappointed by the lack of emphasis on, and detail about, Level 1 and 2 provision in the consultation booklet. This had been a strong theme in the earlier feasibility study and previous position papers from the school. At the consultation meeting (17 September) the strong statements about the school's commitment in this area, and to provision for vulnerable and challenging learners, were most welcome. We have repeatedly emphasised to all partners that the forthcoming raising of the participation age, the need for more learners to reach Level 2 to enhance their life chances and the moral imperative to reduce the number of young people who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) mean that an expansion of Level 1 and 2 provision post 16 is necessary, along with new and creative approaches which will make this provision more attractive than hitherto.

A – Levels

We welcome the statements made at the consultation meeting confirming that the school does not propose to offer A – Level Courses. This line is consistent with the recommendations of the earlier feasibility study, the Strategic Area Review and our own analysis, which clearly indicates that a reduction and consolidation of A – Level provision will be needed over the next few years. However, there is a need to clarify the nature of the contribution of A – Levels to level 3 Diplomas that the school might offer. A Diploma at level 3 will be equivalent to 3 A – Levels. It could contain an A – Level as part of the Additional / Specialist Learning component. Diploma learners based at the school would have to study such an A – Level at another institution. In taking plans for level 3 Diploma provision forward there is clearly a need to look at the relationship between additional and specialist learning. If significant proportions of learners take an A – Level as additional learning it might prejudice the development of a range of new specialist learning opportunities, due to lower learner numbers.

Baccalaureate diploma qualifications

In earlier discussions we have made it clear that we believe it is extremely unlikely that the school will be able to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma because of accreditation and funding arrangements. We also believe that attempting such a development could detract from the school's

stated focus on Applied Learning and diminish the impetus behind other developments. High quality provision would be more likely to result from a clearly defined, limited and focused range of developments. At the consultation meeting the Cambridge pre – U Diploma was mooted as a possible choice of level 3 course. All available information on this qualification (which has yet to be accredited by the QCA) leads to the conclusion that it will be a “traditional” academic level 3 package. The school’s feasibility study suggests that there is no need to expand such provision in York. We believe that the school should reconsider its proposals in this area.

Learner Numbers

We would like the school to provide more rigorous analysis to support its projected learner numbers. In particular we would like firmer data relating to the number of learners the school expects to recruit from the East Riding of Yorkshire LA and other York schools. Alongside this, further information about the number of learners the school expects to recruit at each level would also permit a more coherent and considered analysis of the number lines of learning the school could sustain. It must be remembered that, in the future, the LA will be responsible for commissioning post 16 provision and that demand will be a critical factor in the commissioning process, which will be constrained by fixed budgets.

Lines of Learning

We welcome the statements made at the consultation meeting relating to the distinctive nature of the proposed provision. The school intends placing the new Diplomas, and their associated lines of learning, at the core of its provision. This is a very positive feature of the proposal. We would, however, like the school to consider reducing the number of lines of learning listed in the consultation document. This request is made for four reasons:

1. The number of full time equivalent learners envisaged would be unlikely to sustain the 10 diploma lines suggested (to which a commitment to potential involvement in another – Land Based & Environment – has subsequently been added), particularly if learners are to be distributed across 3 levels (even allowing for some co-level delivery arrangements). The best advice available from colleagues at the LSC is that the minimum number of learners necessary to sustain a delivery group will be in the region of 10 to 12 under the commissioning model.
2. Commitment to a more limited range would allow the school to focus on developing the highest quality provision, enhance that provision’s distinctiveness, contribute provision in new lines of learning which would be genuinely complementary to that offered elsewhere and enhance the school’s “Leading Edge” status as an innovative and “cutting edge” provider.
3. We agree with the school that there is a need to increase the breadth of provision available to post 16 learners. Demographic factors mean that, at level 3, this expanded breadth will be accessed by fewer learners than is currently the case. As indicated above, this must be accompanied by the removal of some existing provision – it will not be possible for everybody to do everything, or even everything that they aspire to do.
4. Other partners have already committed resources and engaged in development work in many of the lines of learning listed in the consultation document, in some cases in advance of Archbishop Holgate’s doing so. They, too, can demonstrate considerable records of achievement in the relevant areas. Reducing the number of Diploma lines of learning in the proposal would recognise the legitimate interests and aspirations of other providers and powerfully demonstrate the school’s stated commitment to collaboration, trust and openness.

As previously stated, we want to support the school’s proposals, not least because the development of post 16 provision at Archbishop Holgate’s offers the opportunity, through the capital funding attached to the “Presumption”, to provide significant new facilities to support Diploma learning in York. We hope that the school will give serious consideration to the issues raised above and would be happy to discuss them further with Governors and Senior Leaders.

Parent

We are in favour of Archbishop's offering post-16 education. In part this is because any additional options at the stage must be a good thing. More importantly, we think that for some children the opportunity to continue learning in an environment they are familiar with and teachers who already know their strengths and weaknesses is valuable. We also feel that Archbishop's has risen to a number of challenges in recent years in improving its standards and would seem well placed to apply what it has learned from these experiences to this new challenge. Our main concern is that as a relatively small establishment it may be difficult for Archbishop's to offer a full range of subjects at this level. To an extent we feel this is an advantage, as we think that some of the more 'trendy' subjects are of less benefit at least to the more able students, though we do feel it is important to be able to offer a full range of core subjects. Our other concern is that you seem to be working more towards diploma and baccalaureate qualifications rather than traditional A levels, and although we accept this may be a better all round educational standard we feel they may be less acceptable to prospective employers.

Woldgate School

I write on behalf of the governing body of Woldgate College Pocklington to object to your proposal to offer post-16 education at your school. We are objecting because we believe it is totally unacceptable for you to seek Learning and Skills Council money to build post-16 accommodation when York is already so richly catered for in this area. York College has just been rebuilt at a cost of £60 million, which included a substantial contribution from the LSC. At the topping out ceremony Chris Banks, Chair of the LSC, described this as 'the largest Further Education new build in the country'. The College now provides superb accommodation for post-16 students and we do not believe that more such accommodation is needed in the city. Meanwhile, many students in existing sixth forms in rural schools surrounding York are being taught in accommodation that is old, poorly equipped, and in some cases totally inadequate. We believe that, instead of paying for yet more state-of-the-art accommodation in the City of York, the LSC should use their money to improve the facilities available to those Post-16 students who choose, or are forced by reason of distance or lack of transport, to study in rural schools. If you wish to have a sixth form at Archbishop Holgate's you should either accommodate it within your existing buildings or fund a new building yourselves.

York College

We are grateful for the opportunity to respond to the consultation exercise being organised by Archbishop Holgate's School with regard to its proposal to offer post-16 provision. Despite good relations with a school which we have always considered a "partner school", and a genuine desire on our part to see the school succeed, we remain unpersuaded by the arguments put forward for post-16 provision there. Our concerns are primarily that (1) the proposals do nothing to address the real needs of the City as identified in the recent Strategic Area Review (StAR), and may even worsen the situation by fragmenting provision (2) there is insufficient consideration given to the serious risks to the school's own performance and reputation in the proposals, and (3) the breadth of curriculum suggested cannot be achieved with the number of learners proposed even if those learners materialised.

Meeting the needs of the City

The recent Strategic Area Review of educational provision in the City of York carried out under the auspices of the local Learning and Skills Council concluded that the pattern of secondary and tertiary provision in the City was appropriate to its needs. 16-19 provision, particularly at level 3 (A level

equivalent), is broader and stronger than might be expected in a city of York's size, largely because the College has been able to create a significant critical mass by drawing a substantial number of young people each year from outside the City's boundaries. For example, in the 2006-07 year 3508 full time 16-19 year olds were enrolled at the College of whom 1308 (43%) were from postcodes outside of the City of York. These learner numbers enable the College to provide a very broad curriculum with a degree of flexibility in the construction of individualised programmes of learning which is rare anywhere in the country and which has proved very popular with learners. There is no evidence that appropriately qualified 16-19 learners seeking level 3 courses in York are unable to find an appropriate programme of study. With a curriculum offer which is predominantly at level 3, it is difficult to see to what unmet need the Archbishop Holgate's proposal is seeking to respond. By fragmenting the provision of level 3 across the City, however, the school risks diluting the offer available to learners. The range and flexibility available at the College is only sustainable as a result of the numbers of learners enrolling each year. Most of the 160 post-16 learners the school expects by 2012 would otherwise be coming to the College. If the school did recruit at this level (and we have serious doubts that these numbers will materialise – particularly if genuinely objective information advice and guidance is offered) it would reduce the College's capacity to offer the range and flexibility of provision which has been such an asset to the City over recent years. This risk is exacerbated by the demographic decline in 16 year olds after 2008, and by the fact that agreement to post-16 provision at Archbishop Holgate's will almost certainly lead to other 11-16 providers in the City seeking the same dispensation. Once the College's capacity to offer its range and flexibility begins to be undermined in this way, it will be less attractive to learners, including those from outside the City, and the City's collective post-16 curriculum offer is consequently impoverished. Perversely, we would find ourselves in a situation in which there may be more institutional choice for post-16 learners but less real curriculum choice.

We are disappointed that in the area of level 1 and 2 provision, where the StAR did identify unmet need in the City, the school's proposals have little to say. It is evident from our discussions with the school that its key post-16 targets are learners for whom provision is already being made rather than those for whom there is an identified gap. This is especially puzzling in light of the emphasis on locality based provision in the consultation document. We believe that there is ample evidence that young people who have achieved level 2 qualifications at 16 are perfectly happy to travel for their level 3 courses (and the College has traditionally made this easier by providing an extensive and growing bus service). The argument for locality based provision would appear to be strongest for those who are the most vulnerable and who require the most support. If the school's analysis was genuinely needs-led, we would have expected this group to feature much more prominently.

The Risks to the School

Establishing new post-16 provision in a school which has no recent history of it is not a risk-free undertaking. The skills and experience required for successful post-16 work are quite different from those needed in an 11-16 context both in the sense of working at level 3 and with post compulsory provision. The relatively small learner numbers planned in the early years, combined with the breadth of curriculum proposed, suggest that post-16 work will be only a small proportion of the workload of any individual member of staff. It will be some time, if ever, before post-16 specialists could be justified. The likelihood, therefore, is either that the school will struggle to develop the post-16 specialist infrastructure necessary to make a success of the venture or that it will create such an infrastructure at the expense of its 11-16 provision. Partnership with other institutions (the 11-18 schools and the College are named in the consultation paper) will not resolve this dilemma, as, once post-16 provision becomes a core element of its own activities (and one on which it will be subject to external scrutiny and judgement), it cannot simply rely on third parties. We believe that the proposal would benefit from a very careful risk appraisal in relation to this with a clearly identified risk management strategy.

Projected Learner Numbers and the Curriculum Offer

We frankly cannot see how the ambitious proposals for 12 lines of learning based largely around (the as yet untested) specialised Diplomas, plus a mix of A levels and a Baccalaureate diploma can be delivered with a cohort of 160. Assuming that all learners are on two year programmes (which itself raises issues about the level 1 and 2 provision) with a 25% attrition rate, the year 13 cohort would have around 70 learners once the full learner numbers are reached. The year 12 cohort would, therefore be around 90 learners. Average class sizes would consequently be unfeasibly low even allowing for some overlap of groups and would either be unsustainable or paid for at the expense of the 11-16 element of the school. The notion that this will somehow be made possible by partnership working is, we believe, naïve in light of the observations made in the section on the risks to the school above. All of this assumes that the figure of 160 can be reached. We have serious doubts that this is in fact the case.

A further concern which the College would have was well expressed by a local 11-18 school Headteacher at a recent Partnership meeting. He commented wisely on the conflict he faced between, on the one hand, providing objective information advice and guidance to young people and their parents to enable an informed decision about their choice of post-16 provision, and on the other, the need to ensure viable post-16 learner numbers in his own institution, and the financial and educational consequences of failing to do so. In our experience, this is a dilemma which is rarely resolved satisfactorily because the school is not in a position to make a genuinely disinterested judgement.

Conclusion

The paragraphs above outline the main reservations we have about these proposals. Two others are worthy of note, however. The first is in relation to a strategy for capital investment in educational provision in the City. The College has just made a £60m capital investment, much of which is to serve the needs of 16-19 year olds. If, as seems likely, the success of the Archbishop Holgate's proposal triggers a spate of similar requests from other 11-16 schools all accompanied by capital requests, we are in danger of creating a series of "white elephants" not least when set against a backdrop of sharp demographic decline. The already high post-16 participation rates in York mean that, even allowing for the effective raising of the age for compulsory involvement in education or training to 18, there will be no increase in the overall numbers once the demographic downturn is factored in and, anyway, it is expected that there will be a significant shift into apprenticeships, rather than full-time college or school, among this cohort. This is not an argument for reducing capital investment – we are more aware than most of its value – but of ensuring that the investment is strategic and is needs driven.

Secondly, we would like some further clarification of the phrase, "an environment within which Christian principles are lived into being and within which the spiritual dimension and moral values are of central importance" particularly as we understand that this is not a faith based proposal. What commitment would need to be made by young people joining year 12 and what, if any, are the practical implications of that commitment? If the commitment is onerous, it risks reducing the target cohort still further. If it is a commitment to respecting others and operating within a moral framework, how does that differ from what might be expected in any civilised community? The school will be aware from previous meetings that the idea that moral values and a spiritual dimension are the sole preserve of faith based institutions is one which is strenuously challenged by those of us working in secular institutions.

Although much of this response has been couched in terms of the needs of the city and the impact on institutions, ultimately our concern is for the individual learners. We are unconvinced that these proposals will do anything significant to meet the needs of those learners who have not achieved the entry standard for level 3 courses by the end of year 11 (the group most at risk and for whom provision is currently inadequate) and, by fragmenting level 3 provision in the city, it will actually lead to a reduction in the real curricular (as opposed to institutional) choice available to learners.

York High School

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your consultation document on Post 16 provision at Archbishop Holgate's School. This response is submitted on behalf of the SLT at York High School as it has not been possible in the time frame to consult with governors.

1. We welcome the commitment in the proposals to address our shared concerns about the provision for young people post 16 who are working at level 1 and 2 or even below. We share with Archbishop's the view that some of these young people and those who are NEET (Not in Education Employment or Training) have not always been best served by the current provision. We know that these are some of our most vulnerable young people and if we can make an impact with these learners it will be of huge benefit to them but also the communities in which they live.
2. We welcome the piloting of a baccalaureate diploma. We believe that this different approach will be of benefit to those young people who desire a broad based but challenging programme post 16. We are aware that other institutions in the city are considering this development and we are happy to support the Archbishop's proposals subject to them seeking partnership in this area of the curriculum.
3. We of course support the development within Archbishop's of some of the new specialised diploma lines. This is a development which all secondary schools are taking on board. The list published in the consultation document is challenging and unlikely to be achievable in full on the post 16 cohort you are intending. We presume that this list will be amended in discussion with immediate locality and wider partners.
4. The proposals for A level provision are a little less clear. In the current situation there is the obvious desire to meet the demands of parents to provide A level courses available elsewhere but there are wider implications. The new funding arrangements for post 16 after 2010 and the well documented reduction in students numbers over the next few years requires that there must be partnership between providers if as a whole we are to get best value for all young people across the city. We trust that this is the intention.

The developments at Archbishop's have provoked a welcome and long overdue debate about post 16 provision in the city. As the leadership team of a neighbouring 11-16 school we fully support the development of post 16 courses at Archbishop Holgate's; it is an aspiration we share. We also recognise our obligation to the wider community and we hope this will be a central feature of the evolution of Archbishop Holgate's School. We wish you well in your work.

Other responses

North Yorkshire Business and Enterprise Partnership

We wish you all the best with the consultation and, should the proposals go ahead, we will of course continue to support the school on what would be a very exciting venture.

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust

The second specialism is being actively supported by the Applied Learning Networks team of Specialist Schools and Academies Trust. A very exciting time for the school. Every success.