

**Honiton Town Councils Response**  
**15<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

Dear Sirs,

Honiton Town Council considered and discussed your proposal to change the age range of Honiton Community College from 11-18 to 11-16 through a phased closure of the Sixth Form at their Full Council meeting last night 14 October 2024.

Members RESOLVED unanimously to strongly **OBJECT** to the proposal for the following reasons:

- The proposal will adversely affect the children of Honiton and those living in outlying areas who would need to travel further to attend post 16 education, which will lead to further costs for students and parents and could impact on their mental wellbeing.
- The proposal will adversely impact vulnerable students who may not be able to travel to an alternative provider.
- Sixth formers are often role models for students in the lower years which benefits both the younger students and the sixth formers who benefit from their added responsibilities.
- Once closed, it will be very difficult to re-open the Sixth Form if required.
- Closing the Sixth Form would restrict the aspirations of the KS3 and KS4 students.
- The lack of student intake at Year 12 for 2024 was likely to be due to the prospect of the Sixth Form closing and teaching being split between Honiton Community College and Sidmouth College.
- The reduction of Year 12 starters over the recent years was likely due to COVID and issues with the previous Head Teacher.
- Honiton Community College should look to expand its curriculum to include new qualifications such as T levels and advertise its offering on its website.
- Honiton Community College has a new Head Teacher who should be given the opportunity to redress the issue.
- There is no guarantee that other Post 16 providers in the area will be able to accept Honiton students for post 16 study.
- The proposal may lead to some students opting out of post 16 education.
- The proposal may lead to fewer families choosing Honiton to live in and Honiton Community College as the school to which they send their children.

Honiton Town Council is of the view that the proposal is shortsighted and whilst it sympathises with the funding issues raised, believe that the Trust should be working towards rebuilding the Sixth Form to serve the growing town of Honiton and the surrounding community.

In particular:

What provision will be made for children with SEND support and EHCPs?

What provision will be made for children post 16 with school-based anxiety and low attendance rates?

What provision will be made for children post 16 who have safeguarding issues (CIN and CP plans)?

For the reasons set out above, Honiton Town Council urges the Ted Wragg Trust to reconsider the proposal and retain the Sixth Form provision at Honiton Community College.

Regards

Heloise Marlow

Heloise Marlow  
Deputy Clerk  
Honiton Town Council



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