



# Proposal for the expansion of Cheadle Hulme Sixth Form Consultation report

## Overview

From Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022, Cheadle Hulme Sixth Form are running a formal consultation with relevant stakeholders and the community to explore the possible expansion of the existing Sixth Form.

The basis for the consultation is a proposal to expand Cheadle Hulme Sixth Form to add a further 50 places per year, increasing the capacity of the Sixth Form to 400, from September 2024. The increase in capacity would require a newly built extension creating 6 additional classrooms. This extension would be dependent on planning permission and funding through a Post-16 Capacity Fund application.

The consultation sought to:

- Understand what stakeholders felt about the proposal to expand the existing Sixth Form.
- Provide an opportunity for respondents to share comments and questions about the proposals.

To promote the consultation, Cheadle Hulme High School communicated extensively with all stakeholders so that they were aware of the consultation and had the opportunity to respond. This included:

- An email outlining the proposal was sent to all parents and staff at Cheadle Hulme High School
- An email outlining the proposal was sent to all parents of children in years 7-10 at Laurus Cheadle Hulme, our sister school that has no sixth form.
- A consultation section was developed on the school's website
- Links to the consultation section of the school website were shared widely on social media
- An email was sent to wider stakeholders, including the local MP, local councillors, all colleges and schools in the Local Authority as well as the Local Authority itself
- An online survey was developed so that anyone could formally share their views

## Executive Summary

- 248 individuals responded to the survey.
- 88% of respondents strongly agreed/agreed with the proposal.
- 5% were “unsure”.
- 7% of respondents disagreed/strongly disagreed with the proposal.

## Consultation Response

Individuals were asked to review the consultation collateral and complete a survey to capture their views.

The survey contained five questions. An analysis of responses is listed below:

### Question 1: What is your relationship to Cheadle Hulme High School?

Relationship	Percentage
Student	6%
Parent/carer of a current student	49%
Staff member	4%
Neighbour	3%
Staff at another school or college	2%
Parent of a child who may come to Cheadle Hulme Sixth Form	33%
Other	3%

### Question 2: If you are a current student, or a parent/carer of a current student, what year group are you/they in?

Year Group	Percentage
Year 7	11%
Year 8	11%
Year 9	17%
Year 10	22%
Year 11	11%
Year 12	5%
Year 13	6%
Not Applicable	17%

### Question 3: Based on what you have read/heard so far, how much do you agree/disagree with the Sixth Form expansion proposal?

Response	Percentage
Strongly agree	69%
Agree	19%
Unsure	5%
Disagree	3%
Strongly disagree	4%

It should be noted that a total of 19 respondents disagreed with the proposal in the total from 248.

#### **Question 4: Do you have any comments about the Sixth Form expansion proposal?**

This question was optional. We have received 136 responses.

Those disagreeing with the proposal raised the following points:

##### **Equal priority for students at Laurus Cheadle Hulme**

Parents believe that children from Laurus Cheadle Hulme should be given equal priority with students from Cheadle Hulme High School over sixth form places.

*Our response: The Laurus Trust are committed to ensuring we have enough places at Laurus Sixth Forms to enable our students, who meet the entrance criteria, to continue with a Laurus education post year 11. This expansion proposal is part of that strategy.*

##### **Traffic**

Some respondents highlighted their concerns over the possible increase in traffic that the expansion would create. They noted that there is already disruption to surrounding roads from sixth form students using side roads for parking and congestion at peak arrival and departure times.

*Our response: We are mindful of the concerns of local residents. The Admissions Policy will continue to retain an oversubscription tiebreaker of distance from the sixth form. The proposal is also subject to planning permission. Stockport MBC Planners will require a comprehensive and robust transport assessment which will include the school submitting a travel plan. We champion the use of public transport, cycling and walking. The school has invested in extensive on-site cycle parking, the toucan crossing on Church Road and a dedicated cycle entrance to encourage more cyclists.*

##### **Quality of education**

There was also some concern about diluting the quality of education and the learning experience if the sixth form becomes too big.

*Our response: The proposed increase of 50 learners per year group is a 33% increase. A 200 PAN Sixth Form is still very small compared to sixth form colleges. Cheadle Hulme Sixth Form has grown since it opened in 2013 but A-level results and the percentage of students achieving places at Russell Group Universities has remained consistently high.*

The vast majority of responses focused on the benefits of the proposal.

*This is much needed. A supportive sixth form both in terms of building academics and providing pastoral care is essential for long term success for students. I would welcome the proposed expansion.*

*The 6th form is a fantastic place, and to offer more students the opportunity to be able to stay within the school or even to be able to come from an outside school is an amazing idea.*

*The current provision has a strong reputation with limited similar options available locally. CHHS should work to continue its excellent relationship and outcomes with students supporting more internal applicants to reach their goals.*

*Extending provision at such a recognised and successful school is absolutely the right thing to do wherever possible.*

## **Question 5: Do you have any questions about the Sixth Form expansion proposal?**

This question was also optional, and so respondents were much more likely to comment if they had a concern about the proposal.

Final comments submitted as part of the survey focussed on some key areas.

### **Selection criteria**

Respondents wanted to know what the selection criteria would be for successful applicants to the newly expanded sixth form and would students from other Laurus Schools or local schools in the area be given equal priority.

*Our response: Currently there are no proposals to amend the Sixth Form Admissions Policy but this is reviewed by the Trust Board on an annual basis.*

### **Parking**

There are some questions around what additional parking options would be included in the proposed expansion to accommodate the increase in student numbers, given that local residents are already concerned about congestion on surrounding streets.

*Our response: Traffic, travel and parking would be addressed at the next phase of this proposal should we proceed to seeking planning permission. This current consultation is to understand the interest and concerns of all stakeholders and we note this particular concern.*

### **Options**

Parents and students want to know if there will be an increase or change in the subject options available to students if the sixth form was to expand for example Religious Studies, Theology, and Technology were mentioned specifically.

*Our response: The Sixth Form currently offers 22 subject choices so considered a wide range for its size. Subjects offered are reviewed each year. The Leadership team are happy to consider additional A levels, subject to student demand and the availability of suitably qualified and experienced teaching staff. For example we added Product Design A level in 2020.*

### **Disruption to current students**

Some responses asked for further information regarding the impact the expansion will have on current sixth form students in terms of the build, noise, classrooms out of use etc.

*Our response: We will work with our chosen contractors, should the proposal proceed, to ensure a building programme that has minimal impact on current students and local neighbours. There will be no sixth form facilities impacted as the proposal is a separate build and the site will be fully contained.*

## **Conclusion**

In consideration of all of the above, it is proposed that Cheadle Hulme High School continue with their application for funding to expand the current sixth form provision. Subject to the outcome of the funding application we will commence a planning permission process which will include further consultation with stakeholders. It is important to note the concerns raised by members of the local community and to continue to work with them to mitigate those concerns as we proceed. We will revisit this report once the consultation has closed.