



## OASIS ACADEMY LISTER PARK PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT. PROPOSAL TO CLOSE THE ACADEMY SIXTH FORM

### Executive summary

Oasis Academy Lister Park is an Ofsted rated 'Good' secondary academy in Bradford, part of the Oasis Community Learning (OCL) multi academy trust. The proposed change is to close the academy Sixth Form. Currently the academy's age range of students is Year 7- Year 13, and our proposal is to reduce this to Year 7- Year 11.

OCL has been working closely with the Department for Education (DfE) and Local Authority on the proposed changes. Before proceeding with this change, OCL will submit a significant change business case to obtain approval from the DfE to proceed. The consultation and responses will form part of the business case.

A consultation with the local community was completed from 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024, and OCL obtained majority support for the proposed changes, as well as queries and comments, the latter of which have been addressed.

The academy currently has the capacity to support 240 students in Sixth Form. Currently the academy has 20 students across Year 12 (0) and Year 13 (20). Due to low student numbers, the academy is now running the provision at a financial loss (approx. loss of £50k per annum) which is included in the existing £480k deficit of the academy.

Although the academy is an Ofsted rated 'Good' school with a successful Year 7-11, the low Sixth Form student numbers mean the current Sixth Form is not offering a suitable entry profile or curriculum offer. The academy is surrounded by multiple large Sixth Forms Colleges that offer a wider range of subjects and pathways; the academy is therefore confident all students that leave after Year 11 will be able to continue their education locally to a high standard.

The main benefits of our proposal to close the Sixth Form are:

- The academy will use the surplus space to enhance their SEND provision. The academy will be able to use this space to create a bespoke nurture provision and two teaching rooms for their 174 SEND students.
- The academy is also taking bulge classes in September 2023 and September 2024 and temporarily increasing their PAN from 160 to 175 at the request of the LA. This will also help to counterbalance the financial loss of the sixth form.
- Removing the Sixth Form will allow staff more time and resource to dedicate to the teaching of Years 7-11.

### Statutory consultation

The consultation ran from 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Information provided to stakeholders took the following forms:

- Website information on the proposed changes - [Public Consultation](#)
- Promotion via Facebook page
- Promotion via the academy X (formally Twitter) page





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- Public consultation information event (with multiple sittings)
- The academy use a 'pop-up' system on their website, where key information pops up as soon as a person visits the site. During the consultation period, the invitation to the consultation event featured on this pop-up, ensuring that anyone who visited the academy website would automatically see it.
- Discussion in academy assemblies (FAO of students and teachers).
- An email to all staff.

The aim of this consultation was to allow all members of the community and key stakeholders to ask questions and share their thoughts on the proposal to close the Sixth Form at Oasis Academy Lister Park.

All these communications flagged the online survey ([OA Lister Park Sixth Form Closure Public Survey](#)) to readers/ attendees attention.

### Statutory consultation results and responses

Two face-to-face events were held on 28<sup>th</sup> November and 6<sup>th</sup> December to ensure all stakeholders had an opportunity to attend. The consultations deliberately coincided with other information sharing events for parents.

These events were attended by parents, guardians students and staff members.

All attendees were provided with the website address and QR code for the online survey.

42 consultation survey responses were received. The following is an analysis of the answers to the four questions on the survey.

### Q1: Are you in support of the proposal to formally close the Academy Sixth Form?

Of the 42 respondents, 24 were in support of the proposal to formally close the Sixth Form, 17 were against and one was unsure.

#### 1. Are you in support of the proposal to formally close the Academy Sixth Form?

[More Details](#)

|          |    |
|----------|----|
| ● Yes    | 24 |
| ● No     | 17 |
| ● Unsure | 1  |



This shows that the majority of respondents (57%) were in favour. We recognise that 17/42 (40%) is a sizeable portion of the respondents who had concerns and therefore we addressed these concerns directly. Please see the 'Addressing concerns and queries' section below.



### Q2: If you answered 'No' or 'Unsure' please provide details for your answer

All 18 of those who had selected 'No' or 'Unsure' added details for their answers. Respondents could use an open text box to answer and so the data is qualitative. However, there are three trends to these answers:

| Trend category  | Number that fall into the category   | Example answer   |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Those who felt more information was needed.                       | 1 respondent fitted this category.   | <i>'I don't know what's available locally to make sure the current options can be done elsewhere.'</i>         |
| Those who felt the Sixth Form should be kept for positive reasons | 13 respondents fitted this category. | <i>'Students are settled in the school and happy'</i><br><br><i>'It's a positive and familiar environment'</i> |
| Concerns over how students would do at other provisions.          | 4 respondents fitted this category   | <i>'Students are looked after better in sixth forms.'</i>  |

### Q3. Do you have any additional queries regarding this proposal?

There were five queries/ pieces of feedback raised by respondents. Of those, two were queries and three were a statement of feedback.

They are as follows:

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <i>Will current 6th form students be able to finish their education at Oasis, or will they have to relocate?</i>  | Query                           |
| <i>Sad to hear about it</i>   | Feedback (against closing)      |
| <i>Why is it closing?</i>   | Query                           |
| <i>Its not like you were offering biology, chemistry and physics anymore. It was just the btecs left, wo might aswel (sic) close the 6th form. The good teachers have all left, so it was perfect decision for yourselves</i> | Feedback (in favour of closing) |
| <i>More focus on lower years</i>  | Feedback (in favour of closing) |

For how we followed up and addressed these the two queries please see the 'Addressing concerns and queries' section below.

### Q4: What is your connection to Oasis Academy Lister Park?

Of the 42 respondents, there was a fairly even split between Current Students, Parents/ Relatives of Current Students, and Teachers/ Members of staff. These three groups accounted for 73.6% of respondents.

The remaining 26.4% was made up of Former Students, Parents from different local schools, Local

Commented [HS1]: Should say even



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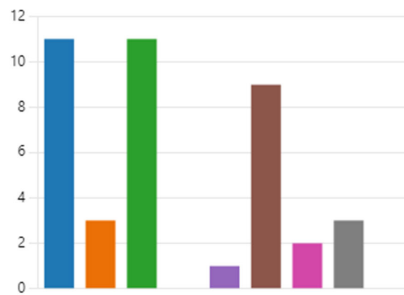
Residents, and those who preferred not to say.

This data shows that we had good representation across all the major stakeholder groups, with a good variety of voices from the academy's community.

### 4. What is your connection to Oasis Academy Lister Park ?

[More Details](#)

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Current Student                       | 11 |
| Former Student                        | 3  |
| Current Student Parent/ Relative      | 11 |
| Former Student Parent/ Relative       | 0  |
| Parent/ Relative of student at dif... | 1  |
| Teacher/ Member of staff (inc c...    | 9  |
| Local Resident                        | 2  |
| Prefer not to say                     | 3  |
| Other                                 | 0  |



### Addressing concerns and queries

Although the majority of survey results were in favour of closing the Sixth Form, we wanted to address the questions and concerns that had been raised by respondents unsure or against closure.

The answers are as follows:

| Query/ Concern  | Answer  |
|---|---|
| Unsure of what other provision is available locally   | GCSE students will continue to be provided with the necessary support and guidance on local Sixth Form options, or other educational pathways, to ensure their successful educational transition.   |
| Will current 6th form students be able to finish their education at Oasis Academy Lister Park, or will they have to relocate? | It is important to note that our current Sixth Form students will not be affected by this decision. They will be able to complete their studies at our school as planned.   |
| Why is it closing?  | Over the past few years, we have been providing a Sixth Form to our students. More recently, due to reduced student numbers, this offer has been significantly reduced for a variety of reasons including a reduced curriculum. Our academy is now surrounded by very large Sixth Form colleges that offer a wide range of subjects and pathways which we are not able to compete with. |





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This information was then shared via the academy website, and in school assemblies for students and staff.

As the majority of respondents who raised concerns were current students, these updates and the information shared at school assemblies have therefore gone a long way to alleviate the concerns.

### Conclusion and Next Steps

We are confident that closing the academy Sixth Form will benefit stakeholders. We are grateful to the 42 respondents who took the time to offer their feedback. We are confident we are following the wishes of the majority by closing the Sixth Form, whilst also respecting those with concerns, as we have addressed these with direct answers and explanations.

We would like to thank all those who have taken the time to read and respond to this proposal. We will, of course, continue to work with our stakeholders and the local community over the next few months. Updates will be posted to the website as we are able to share them.

