

Proposal to extend the age range of Perschore High School to accommodate students from Year 7 in September 2021

In conjunction with the proposals from the governing bodies of our Avonreach Academy Trust partner schools to extend their age range to include Years 5 & 6, the Governors of Perschore High School are proposing to alter our school's admissions policy to admit students into Year 7, at the age of 11.

For Year 6 students in the proposed Avonreach primary schools this will provide:

- Greater choice for students and parents at the end of Key Stage 2.
- The opportunity for a single transition between schools.

For students and parents who choose to transfer to Perschore High School at the end of Year 6, from September 2021, we will provide:

- Outstanding pastoral care through our vertical tutoring system (Ofsted 2013, 2017).

Our Vertical Tutoring system and pastoral procedures, judged by Ofsted as "Outstanding", ensure that students settle very happily and quickly at Perschore High School. Students with SEND are appropriately integrated into the main school with dedicated, individual support. Older students are both caring and supportive, a point made by Ofsted (2013) who noted that *"...students are kind, helpful and respectful towards one another. They say that bullying, in any form, is simply not tolerated, either by staff or by the students themselves, and that they are committed to looking after each other."* More recently, Ofsted (2017) observed that *"Pupils talk about the support they get from teachers as one of the main reasons why they enjoy school."*

- Specialist teaching across all subjects in purpose-built facilities.

All of our teachers are trained to teach the full secondary age range of 11-18. All teachers are subject specialists and fully understand the demands of the new GCSE and A Level specifications. Their experience makes them ideally placed to develop a Key Stage 3 curriculum that prepares students effectively for external exams. Ofsted (2017) commented that *"...staff are determined that all pupils, regardless of their circumstances, are provided with the quality of teaching and support they need to succeed."* Since becoming an academy, we have invested over £5 million in new and improved facilities for our students.

- Continuity of study in Key Stage 3 to ensure GCSE readiness.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum is designed to be taught to students from Year 7 through to Year 9. As an academy, we have the ability to design our curriculum to best meet the needs of our students and prepare them for the new GCSE courses. We will offer a curriculum in Years 7 and 8 that effectively prepares students for the significant challenge of these new courses. We start some GCSE courses in Year 9 and students joining in Year 7 will find the extra year in High School valuable in preparing them to step up to the challenge of GCSEs.

- Consistent assessment framework across Key Stage 3.

In September 2014 the national framework of levels to assess students in Key Stages 1-3 formally ended. There are clear advantages for students to follow a single, consistent assessment system throughout Key Stage 3, designed around GCSE readiness, which is understood by students and parents.

- Wide range of extra-curricular opportunities.

As a large secondary school, we have the ability to offer a very wide range of extra-curricular opportunities for our students; many of these are open to students from mixed year groups which further reinforces our 'family orientated' vertical tutoring system and provides opportunities for leadership at all levels.