



## 1 Formal public consultation

This document sets out the formal public consultation produced by King Edward VI College, Stourbridge on its proposal to dissolve the governing body (the Corporation) and to convert to academy status. The College is proposing to transfer all its rights and liabilities to the Heart of Mercia Multi-Academy Trust. The property and buildings would remain in the ownership of the Foundation Trustees of King Edward VI College, Stourbridge.

## 2 Background

King Edward VI College, Stourbridge is a non-denominational, designated sixth form college. The College was established under section 30 of the Further & Higher Education Act 1992 and incorporated under the Learning and Skills Act 2000 in 2001. The College is an exempt charity under Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is regulated by the Secretary of State for Education for sixth form colleges. The College was rated 'Good' by Ofsted at its last inspection in 2017.

King Edward VI College, Stourbridge is the only sixth form college in the Black Country. Based primarily on a single site in the town centre, the College is a specialist A-level college, providing education at level 3 and serving the educational needs of high aspiring 16 – 19-year olds from a variety of cultural and social backgrounds. Over 80% of students progress to higher education, with a high proportion progressing to higher tariff universities. The College currently has 2,260 students, all of whom are full-time. The date proposed for the dissolution of the College as a Sixth Form College Corporation is 1 February 2021 (or as soon as possible thereafter). All students attending the College on that date will continue their education in the new academy. There are no plans to alter the education provision currently provided by the College.

## 3 Becoming an academy

Our proposal is to join the Heart of Mercia MAT, launched on 1 April 2019. This is a MAT based on sixth form colleges working together and currently consists of Hereford Sixth Form College and Worcester Sixth Form College. The College proposes to join the Heart of Mercia MAT on 1 February 2021.

There will be no change in the character or ethos of the College and the name will remain King Edward VI College, Stourbridge. Academy status as a member of the Heart of Mercia MAT would place the College under the aegis of the Regional Schools Commissioner.

The rationale for the Trust is for a group of sixth form colleges located within Herefordshire, Worcestershire and the West Midlands to provide a range of excellent learning opportunities for 16-19 year olds in a stimulating, supportive and inclusive environment that will allow them to fulfil their potential and equip them with the skills, confidence and resilience to meet their goals and become productive members of society. The Trust's ethos is in alignment with the mission and values of the College since its inception as a sixth form college in 1976.

The Heart of Mercia MAT will be a highly respected educational provider of sixth form education for all its students. Students will be supported to become independent learners, who grow, acquire skills and make

decisions within a supportive, caring environment. Students within the Trust will have high expectations placed upon them. They will flourish not just academically but socially and in terms of their wider skills. This will enable them to be highly successful in their personal lives, in further study and in employment.

Member colleges will retain their unique identities and links with their immediate communities, although they will share a commitment to the Heart of Mercia's mission and values.

As sixth form colleges, we are already engaged in collaborative work that is aimed at continually improving the quality of our provision and ensuring that we offer the highest quality learning experience to our students. We share high levels of achievement, retention and progression. Our vision is that by formally joining our efforts together in a MAT, we will ensure that this high-quality provision is sustained for the long-term across all member colleges, with a rigorous focus on continuous quality improvement.

The Heart of Mercia MAT will operate efficiently to maximise the resources that are devoted to teaching and learning and will create attractive and sustainable environments for people to work and learn. This will be achieved through collaborative purchasing and working across all member organisations wherever beneficial and through consistently applying best practice in financial control. Where this is the best way of delivering support services, they may be shared between several member organisations or centralised for the whole Trust.

## 4 Calendar of events

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| <b>December 2019</b>   | Application to convert to academy status submitted to the ESFA and the RSC.  |
| <b>May 2020</b>        | Approval in principle to proceed granted by the Head Teachers Board.   |
| <b>October 2020</b>    | Formal consultation period following announcement of proposal in local and national press. Questions and queries will be responded to within this consultation period. |
| <b>November 2020</b>   | Summary of consultation feedback and proposed action.  |
| <b>January 2021</b>    | Establishment of shadow local governing body (LGB) in preparation for conversion to academy status.  |
| <b>1 February 2021</b> | Dissolution of the Corporation and formal transfer of King Edward VI College, Stourbridge to the Heart of Mercia MAT.  |

## 5 Responding to the consultation

All stakeholders and interested parties are invited to comment on these proposals by emailing the College on: [publicconsultation@kedst.ac.uk](mailto:publicconsultation@kedst.ac.uk) or by writing to the Principal or the Clerk to the Governors at King Edward VI College, Lower High Street, Stourbridge DY8 1TD.