



The Bankfield School

Specialist Science and Applied Learning College
A Gifted and Talented Lead School

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Specialist Schools Trust

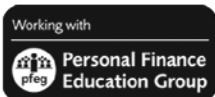


APPLIED
LEARNING

Gifted &
Talented
Lead school



Healthy Schools



HALTON
WHERE SCIENCE AND
INNOVATION SUCCEED

HALTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

NT:P/Admin/Post16/ConsultationDocs/Letter/23Nov09

23 November 2009

Dear Parents/Carers

Proposals for Post 16 Education at Bankfield

This letter is part of a formal consultation process that explains our proposals to bring Post 16 education at The Bankfield in collaboration with other Halton schools and colleges.

We currently provide education for nearly 800 students aged between 11 and 16 however under the existing Building Schools for the Future (BSF) plan this number is due to rise to 1050 students. These Post 16 proposals will enable us to provide education for students up to the age of 18. We would hope to commence delivery in September 2011 i.e. the first cohort of students would be our current Year 10 students.

This opportunity has arisen through our new Applied Learning Status as a result (HPSS) which recognises the fact that The Bankfield School has been performing at a level beyond what would be expected. The government is keen to encourage schools like ours to continue their high quality education beyond Year 11 and therefore we have this opportunity to do just that.

We are only on the first stage of the journey towards Post 16 education as by law we need to consult widely with everyone who might be affected by our change in status. This includes neighbouring schools and colleges as well as Bankfield's students, parents/carers and members of staff. Finally we will need to get Halton Borough Council to formally approve our proposals. We hope this will happen within the next six months.

Gaining the support of parents/carers for Post 16 education is essential if we are to succeed with our proposals. Enclosed with this letter is a Question and Answer sheet that addresses some of the questions that you might have about this change. In addition there is a Parent /Carer Response sheet that gives you an opportunity to give us your views on our proposals. We would very much appreciate you completing the sheet and returning it to the school.

If you wish to find out more about our proposals you can look on the school's website at the 'Post 16' part of the site alternatively you are invited to a public meeting on the proposals which will take place at the school on **Thursday 10th December at 6:30pm.**

Your feedback will be a key factor in the success of our proposals and so we look forward to hearing your responses.

Yours sincerely

Carole Owen
Headteacher



Post 16 Consultation Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why are you thinking of expanding to post 16 education at this time?

A: Because we became an Applied Learning College in September 2009 the government has given us an opportunity to become a post 16 provider as long as we do it within two years of becoming an Applied Learning College.

Q: What subjects/qualifications will be offered at post 16?

A: Final decisions about subjects and qualifications will be taken early next year but we think the qualifications will be a mixture of Applied Learning qualifications like BTECs, NVQs and Apprenticeships together with more traditional A levels.

Q: When are you proposing that students can start post 16 education at Bankfield?

A: If we get approval for our proposals students will start post 16 course in September 2011. This will mean students currently in Year 10 and below would have an opportunity to stay on at Bankfield at the end of Year 11.

Q: How will your proposals fit with other post 16 providers like St Peter and Pauls and Riverside College?

A: We will work in collaboration with other post 16 providers in Halton. We want to develop a partnership situation where each provider is working together to provide specialist centres for post 16 education.

Q: How will all these additional students be accommodated?

A: The government may well provide us with additional money for extra buildings but our new school buildings will be big enough to accommodate the extra students.

Q: Will the post 16 courses only be available for students who are already Bankfield students?

A: No the courses will be open to any student who meets the entry requirements for each course. We expect students will come from all over Halton and even from surrounding areas.

Q: Why does Halton need more post 16 education?

- 1) From 2013 all students must stay on in education or training until they are 17 and from 2015 until they are 18 this will require extra courses and places.
- 2) Bankfield post 16 will offer a broader choice of subjects and will draw on its strengths of links with employers to help students make an easy transition from school into highly skilled employment.
- 3) Currently many Halton students travel outside the area for post 16 education. By offering high quality education we intend to see fewer students wishing to leave Halton for post 16 education

Q: When do you expect to hear whether your proposals to have Post 16 education have been successful?

A: The formal consultation period ends in January 2010. We then have to make a legal application to Halton Borough Council and the Department of Children, Schools and Families and we would expect to hear whether this has been successful by Easter 2010.