

PUBLIC CONSULTATION SUMMARY FEEDBACK

| <p>The Proposal</p> | <p>Long Road Sixth Form College and The Sixth Form College, Colchester consulted on the proposal to co-create a new multi-academy trust.</p> <p>The proposed name for the trust is The Sixth Form Colleges Trust.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------|-------|------------|-----|----|-----|----|----|-----|--------|----|-----|
| <p>Consultation Process</p> | <p>We consulted students at Long Road Sixth Form College and The Sixth Form College, Colchester and their parents and carers, staff at both colleges, September 2024 Applicants, our local secondary schools and Further Education Colleges, as well as Trades Unions, Cambridgeshire and Essex Local Authorities, local MP's and other stakeholders.</p> <p>On 17th April 2024 the Public Consultation was launched and available on both college websites, www.longroad.ac.uk and www.colsfc.ac.uk. Official notices were also published in The Guardian, The Cambridge News and The Essex Chronicle.</p> <p>17th May 2024 – The Public Consultation closed</p> <p>4th July 2024 - The Consultation Outcome is published</p> <p>1st September 2024 - The Sixth Form Colleges Trust is created</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>The Results</p> | <p>We are very grateful for all the feedback we received. Thank you to every respondent.</p> <p>We received a total of 137 responses to the Consultation Survey.</p> <p>64 % (88 respondents) support the proposal to create The Sixth Form Colleges Trust.</p> <div data-bbox="336 1361 1155 1832" style="text-align: center;"> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>YES</td> <td>88</td> <td>64%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>32</td> <td>23%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNSURE</td> <td>17</td> <td>12%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <p>23% (32 respondents) do not support the proposal 12 % (17 respondents) are unsure.</p> | Response | Count | Percentage | YES | 88 | 64% | NO | 32 | 23% | UNSURE | 17 | 12% |
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| YES | 88 | 64% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NO | 32 | 23% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| UNSURE | 17 | 12% | | | | | | | | | | | |

Stakeholder Responses

| Respondent | YES | NO | Unsure |
|---|-----|----|--------|
| Staff Member | 23 | 5 | 4 |
| Student | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| Parent/Carer | 25 | 14 | 8 |
| Local Educational Providers | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Other Educational Providers/ Educationalists | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Applicant | 11 | 4 | 2 |
| Resident | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Member of the Public | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Union (NEU Cambridgeshire branch) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Councillor | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Careers Advisor | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Other | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Positive Feedback

We received so many positive responses in support of the proposal from students, staff, parents and carers, as well as our local school and college partners. The following comments are an illustrative selection:

‘As a former Principal of one sixth from college and a former Governor of another sixth from college and as a current Member of a multi-academy trust, I believe I have significant understanding of both sixth form colleges and multi-academy trusts. During the last fifty years, sixth form colleges, including Colchester Sixth Form College and Long Road Sixth Form College, have made an extraordinarily powerful contribution to state education in the United Kingdom. They have succeeded in the challenging triple aspiration of increasing participation dramatically, raising standards of achievement by adding significant value, and creatively using constrained resources efficiently and effectively. However, in these challenging times, no sixth form college is an island and there is much to be gained through collaboration and joint working.’

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|----------------------------|---|
| | <p><i>'I can see a proposal for a cup to be played between the two colleges each year at the end of the season for sports such as Rugby, Football, Netball and Basketball.'</i></p> <p><i>'If this combines a vocational and academic offering with the child at heart, then yes'.</i></p> <p><i>'My children's senior school joined a trust and I think it's been so positive for the school.'</i></p> <p><i>'we believe that this proposal will be to the benefit of the community in Cambridge'.</i></p> <p><i>'I am delighted to see the two colleges taking this initiative. The reasons for the formation of the Trust are clearly and honestly set out in the document and I am confident that the combined strengths of the two colleges will be of real benefit to students and staff. Furthermore, the enhanced resilience and impact of the colleges will enable them to better serve and meet the needs of their communities, including employers. The commitment to inclusivity is important to me and, as I know from personal experience, to the two colleges. This will be a partnership soundly based on shared values, an essential ingredient for the success of such a venture. As a long-term supporter of the sixth form college model and believer in the productive potential of collaboration, I find it very encouraging to see sixth form colleges working together in this way. A strong, resourceful and responsive 16-19 sector is vital for successful education in this country. The proposed Sixth Form Colleges Multi Academy Trust will strengthen the sector and help to ensure its future. Fully support.'</i></p> |
| <p>Concerns</p> | <p>Those respondents not in support of the proposals, and some who were unsure, were concerned that the Sixth Form Colleges Trust might replicate the failings of school multi-academy trusts that they had experienced directly or knew about. The central concerns were that the MAT might seek to alter staff terms and conditions, dictate pedagogy from the centre and divert valuable funds away from the classroom. Others questioned how effective collaboration could be, given the Colleges are located in different counties and a few staff expressed concerns about the possibility of working across the two sites.</p> |
| <p>Our Response</p> | <p>The driver to cocreate the Sixth Form Colleges Trust is to <u>preserve and enhance</u> both The Sixth Form College, Colchester and Long Road Sixth Form College for many generations to come. Hence our very clear commitment to maintain our sixth form college terms and conditions to ensure we can continue to recruit and retain our talented staff. We have no plans for a costly central team, quite the opposite, with colleagues combining roles to keep costs down. Pedagogy, we are adamant, is for subject specialists to determine.</p> <p>The geographical distance between the two colleges limits significantly the potential to share on site staffing, instead technology (the use of Microsoft Teams as an example) enables us to collaborate easily, sharing ideas in a time-efficient, greener way. Planning together, we will be able to schedule joint student events/visits/projects, thereby increasing opportunities, reducing costs and maximising impact.</p> |
| <p>Next Steps</p> | <p>The Sixth Form Colleges Trust is created on the 1st of September 2024.</p> |

THANK YOU

On behalf of the Governors of Long Road Sixth Form College and The Sixth Form College, Colchester, we would like to thank all respondents for taking the time to share their thoughts.

We will continue to reflect on your contributions as we develop The Sixth Form Colleges Trust, and we will share our progress as we work to realise our goals.

The Sixth Form Colleges Trust

Our goals are to:

- **extend learning opportunities and activities for students,**
- **enrich the curriculum through partnership working and shared resources,**
- **enable the sharing of excellent practice in teaching and learning and support, further improving effectiveness, outcomes, and progression for all students,**
- **enhance the professional development of teaching and support staff,**
- **and secure valuable cost and resource efficiencies through joint commissioning of services which will enable more funds to be reinvested back into the student experience.**

Our vision is to create a dynamic, innovative partnership of inclusive sixth form colleges, making a positive contribution to post-16 learning in the Eastern region and beyond.