

**King Edward VI CEVC Upper School, Bury  
St Edmunds**

**Statutory Proposal to close Sixth Form**

**Full Proposal Document**

**1. LA details**

Suffolk County Council  
Endeavour House  
8 Russell Road  
Ipswich  
IP1 2BX

**2. School details**

King Edward VI CEVC Upper School  
Grove Road  
Bury St Edmunds  
IP33 3BH

Church of England Voluntary Controlled School.

The Governing Body is the proposer.

**3. Description of alteration and evidence of demand**

The proposal being made by The Governing Body is for a phased closure of the sixth form to include no Year 12 entry for sixth form students in September 2019 and to close the sixth form completely on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020. From September 2020 the school would continue to provide an education for 11-16 year old pupils only.

**4. Objectives and reasons**

There is no longer a requirement for the sixth form at the school due to the opening of Abbeygate Sixth Form College in Bury St Edmunds. This has been brought about because of the collaborative plan, initially agreed in March 2016, to open a new 16-19 Free School in Bury St Edmunds to provide A Level courses for up to 1700 students. By collaborating in this way King Edward VI CEVC Upper School will be able to:

- remove the potential limitation of A level subject choice for students within the school
- refocus as an 11-16 school to achieve the best outcomes for Year 7-11 students

Abbeygate Sixth Form College will open with Year 12 entry in September 2019.

King Edward VI CEVC Upper School will retain the current Year 12 to become Year 13 in September 2019, this ensures students who are mid-way through their sixth form courses are protected. From September 2020 Abbeygate Sixth Form College will have Year 12 and Year 13 sixth form students.

**5. The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area**

The closure of the sixth form at King Edward VI CEVC Upper School has no net effect on other schools offering A-level courses in the area. Potential sixth form students who may have attended the sixth form at King Edward VI CEVC Upper School will either attend the new Abbeygate Sixth Form College or another sixth form of their choice.

**6. Project costs and an indication of how these will be met**

There are no project costs associated with closure of the sixth form at King Edward VI CEVC Upper School.

## **7. Implementation date**

It is intended to implement the proposal on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020. However, there will be no Year 12 entry to the sixth form at King Edward VI CEVC Upper School in September 2019. The current Year 12 students will continue into Year 13 from September 2019 and leave in July 2020 hence the proposed implementation date of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018.

## **8. Consultation**

The Governing Body has completed a document 'Proposed Closure of Sixth Form at King Edward VI School' for the schools' website.

A joint statement dated 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018 by the Chair of Governors at King Edward VI CEVC Upper School and Suffolk Academies Trust was issued to Parents/Carers of all year groups at King Edward VI CEVC Upper School to communicate information on the latest arrangements.

The prospectus for the current Year 12 held on the school website indicated that Abbeygate Sixth Form College would be opening in September 2019, proving public intent from a year ago.

Information relating to Abbeygate Sixth Form College has been widely reported in the local news.

All documents produced by the college refer to working very closely with their partner school King Edward VI CEVC Upper School. On 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 the college loaded a document to the website titled 'Abbeygate Sixth Form College on Schedule to Open September 2019.' This document stated 'In the first instance, Abbeygate SFC students will be accommodated in the bespoke facilities at the University of Suffolk, at West Suffolk College. We are continuing to work closely with our partner school King Edward VI, which currently offers sixth form provision in the town. These arrangements will be in place until the new state of the art Sixth Form College building is ready to accommodate students, enabling us to move seamlessly at a time when it is in the best interests of student to do so.'

Local post 16 evenings have been held in schools to meet prospective students and parents. Abbeygate Sixth Form College was represented at these events as well as at West Suffolk College open events.

A public drop in event took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 in the entrance foyer of West Suffolk College at which eight presentation boards were displayed demonstrating the proposed building, site and construction logistics of the new Abbeygate Sixth Form College. This was attended by the local community, prospective students and their parents.

The above proves information regarding local post – 16 education has been in the public domain for some time.

## **9. Related proposals**

There are no related proposals.

**10. Procedure for making representations (support, objections and comments)**

Any person may object to, express support for, or make comments on the proposal by writing to King Edward VI CEVC Upper School Consultation, Schools Infrastructure Children and Young People's Service, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich IP1 2BX, email [schools@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:schools@suffolk.gov.uk), within 4 weeks of the publication of these proposals (by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019).