

## Record of operational decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	To approve the proposal to close the Sixth Form at Earl Mortimer College by September 2023
<b>Date of decision:</b>	15 August 2023
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Head of Educational Development
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>The authority for the specified officer to take this decision as set out in the Children and Young Peoples scheme of delegation line 91.</p> <p><a href="https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayclassic.aspx?NAME=SOD01">https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayclassic.aspx?NAME=SOD01</a></p>
<b>Ward:</b>	Leominster Wards
<b>Consultation:</b>	<p>Earl Mortimer College conducted a consultation, which ran from 15th May – 19th June 2023</p> <p>83 responses were received, of which 27 (33%) were against the closure. Those against raised concerns around additional travel and costs incurred to go to an alternative provision, the loss of a community asset and learners enjoy going to the school.</p> <p>Those in support (51%), appreciated that the sixth form is unviable, both financially and the resources required because of declining numbers. They also acknowledged that there are stronger local providers.</p> <p>Other responders were either neutral (2%) or did not answer the question on the proposal (11%)</p> <p>The Cabinet member for Cabinet Member Children and Young People has been consulted and supports the proposal for closure. However, they were keen that nobody is disadvantaged by the decision and that anyone that may have chosen to attend the college in the future can still access further education.</p>
<b>Decision made:</b>	To approve the closure of the Sixth Form at Earl Mortimer College form September 2023
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>Sixth form provision at the school has been limited since the decision in 2016 to cease offering A Levels/Level 3 qualifications.</p> <p>The Sixth Form currently consists of 0 students. With a large number of students seeking 16-19 provision outside of Leominster, in recent years the school has been able to offer only a limited number of subjects.</p>

	<p>With reduced Sixth Form numbers, the proportion of the budget required from the 11-16 funding to maintain the sixth form is increasing to an unsustainable level.</p> <p>An average sixth form college has around 1000 students, while an average school sixth form has approximately 200. As a result, economies of scale apply which means it is more expensive per student for schools to provide sixth form provision than a sixth form or further education college.</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) recognises that sixth forms with less than 200 students are at risk of not being financially viable.</p> <p>The total number of students in the 6th Form over the last five years is shown in the table below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="475 607 1305 689"> <thead> <tr> <th>2018-19</th> <th>2019-20</th> <th>2020-21</th> <th>2021-22</th> <th>2022-23</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>20</td> <td>18</td> <td>14</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>As a result, the school is currently subsidising the sixth form from other funding streams, such as that for 11 to 16 year olds, which is not sustainable.</p> <p>The school's focus will be on continuing to improve the quality of education in Years 7 to 11.</p>	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	18	20	18	14	0
2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23							
18	20	18	14	0							
<p><b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b></p>	<p>There may be a risk that learners from disadvantaged backgrounds may find it difficult to access further education. To mitigate this, the school will provide advice and guidance to enable learners to make informed choices about courses and providers.</p>										
<p><b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b></p>	<p>Do nothing – but this is financially unviable</p>										
<p><b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b></p>	<p>None</p>										

Signed..... Date: 15 August 2023

Head of Educational Development