



Aston Manor Academy

All different • All equal • All achieving

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HEADTEACHER: JILL SWEENEY



18th October 2024

Dear Parent/carers,

Consultation on proposed expansion to Aston Manor Academy Sixth Form

From Thursday 17th October to Thursday 14th November, Aston Manor Academy is running a formal consultation with relevant stakeholders and the community to explore the possible expansion of our existing Sixth Form.

The 6th form is currently oversubscribed and there is a demand locally for more students to join the academy post-16. We are currently unable to meet the demand for the students that apply to us in the local area. **The basis for this consultation is a proposal to expand Aston Manor Academy Sixth Form to increase to a total capacity of 300 from September 2025.** Aston Manor Academy is in the planning stages of a re-build programme for the school, and as part of the re-build plan we would like to ensure that we can offer the best possible accommodation for our current students and a greater number in the future.

It is not anticipated that we will need to make any changes to our current admissions policy at this time.

1. Why are we proposing to enlarge the number of places available at Aston Manor Academy Sixth Form?

The school has had a steady increase in applications to our Sixth Form for a number of years, and we have managed to increase our provision to enable many of those who have wanted to attend our Sixth Form to have a place. We find the current demand growing further, and we have not been able to meet the demand for all the students that apply to us from the local area. Our post-16 curriculum compliments the provision of other local providers as we provide a mixture of vocational and academic qualifications, giving local students a wide range of opportunities in further education. The football and basketball academies have recently expanded to offer pathways for both boys' and girls' football. Our curriculum has been successful in meeting the needs of our pupils and has enabled students to gain places at higher education institutions and on apprenticeship programmes.

Please see the table below of our current and prospective student numbers.

Student numbers in Sixth Form					
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
242	221	253	272	280	300

2. How will the expansion be funded?

The proposal is in agreement from the Department for Education as part of the school's re-build strategy and expanding the number of high-quality pupils in Aston post-16. We would fund this through the Post-16 Capacity fund. An increase in the Academy's Post-16 provision would be planned at the earliest stage of the re-build project entitling the school to a greater number of classrooms, larger exams and social spaces for the increased



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capacity in the building. As the school is an Academy, a Significant Change proposal will be submitted to the Regional Director.

3. Headteacher's statement

Aston Manor Academy are in the early stages of working with the Department of Education on a planned re-building project for the school. This is an opportunity for the Academy to improve our physical space and update our learning environment for our students. We would be able to increase the number of classrooms and improve our social space. We would be able to offer more of our local children who want to come to the Academy, the opportunity to study here. Therefore, this is an ideal opportunity for us to increase our numbers.

We would continue with our current curriculum and continue to work with other local providers to compliment the educational offer post-16 in the area and offer local children a varied choice of education pathways.

We are excited to be able to grow our sixth form and to improve the quality of facilities that we can offer the sixth-form students and the school as a whole.

I hope that you are supportive of our plans.

This consultation will run from Thursday 17th October 2024 to Thursday 14th November 2024, and any comments and responses will be taken into consideration towards our proposal. If Equitas Academies Trust decide to proceed with the expansion, then a business case will be submitted to the Regional Schools Commissioner, as required by the DFE guidance for making changes to our pupil funding agreement. The changes to the school building will require planning permission and will be subject to all normal planning processes.

Please email enquiry@astonmanoracademy.com in response to this consultation with the subject post-16 consultation.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Sweeney
Headteacher

