

Copies of emailed responses to Public Notice – shown in order of receipt

1.

I think closing down SBA is a terrible idea and puts the education of many in jeopardy. Many students will not be able to find places elsewhere and will fall behind as they will have to find other places of education which could seriously damage their chances of getting Their A levels and so forth having a successful future.

2.

The decision to end the sixth form is a huge disadvantage to Year 12 students as it further brings them to an even more disadvantageous spot. There are students whom are very capable and educationally brilliant; who due to various reasons cannot afford to pay for travel expenses should the need to move to a different Sixth Form occur. Taking away the sixth form also inconveniences the staff as well who have poured many years of work here, and for it to close due to AET's mishandling the school, finding then filling vacancies will be difficult.

Hence many believe it is of the best interest to at the very least allow the current Year 12's to carry studying in SBA until they have completed Year 13.

3.

I am a student at the Sandown Bay Academy Sixth Form in your constituency. Recently the school has been threatened with a variety of closure plans but thanks to our schools and local official's efforts the main school will remain open as an 'All-through' school managed by the local Bay C of E primary school.

We have just found out however, that our sixth form, will be closed due to the refusal of the Bay C of E school to take on its management. The Sixth Form here is arguably the best on the Isle of Wight and to see it go would be a tragedy. Multiple staff including teachers and administrators would lose their careers as well as thousands of students missing out on a great place to start their higher education including students currently in the first year of the Sixth Form.

On behalf of the staff and fellow students at Sandown Bay Academy, I beg you to try and save our sixth form.

4.

I am writing to you as a current year 11 student at Sandown Bay Academy shocked and disheartened by the proposal to get rid of Sandown's Sixth Form. Since I joined Sandown in year 7, I was led to believe that the school could provide me with education all the way through

to A Level. Whilst I appreciate that there have been a lot of changes to the school over the last five years, the Sixth form is a staple of Sandown Bay and an opportunity that I, and countless other year 11s, do not want to be deprived of.

Our current Sixth Form is one of the only centres on the east side of the Isle of Wight and travel to any other college will not only be expensive but time consuming.

The Bay is a low income area where opportunities are far and few between and the hassle caused by the closure of the sixth form will undoubtedly deter students from further education.

There have been promises made to us as students that need to be kept and I desperately, along with so many other members of the Bay community, urge you to reconsider the removal of the sixth form and allow us to run under these exceptional circumstances.

5.

Wishing The Bay CE Primary School well with its new venture. I saw the notice in the County Press this week inviting people to acquire details of the decision to take over Sandown Bay Academy and to put forward comments. I have a specific enquiry – appreciating though it's probably a bit early to discuss.

I am a runner who occasionally uses the 400m track at Sandown. I wondered if plans for developing the new school will have impact on the track – in regard its continued existence (the potential to be built on) or loss of its access for school(s) generally and for others (like me) outside school hours?

As said – likely too early to say at this stage, but grateful for any information on current thinking.

6.

As a parent of a child currently in year 12 at Sandown Bay Academy, I would like to register my objection to the closure of the 6th form in August 2018. I understand the reason given, in that the number of students is too low but I feel having actively encouraged the year current year 12 students to join the 6th form, there is now a duty of care to see them through at SBA to the end of year 13. Please be aware that this cohort were the ones who suffered the disruption to their education by being the first year group to be affected by changing over to the 2 tier system. Also, statistics show that when a student changes school, their education takes a 6 month backward step. It really would be the worst possible scenario for these young people if they had to move schools half way through their A level courses. At a public meeting last July, Brian Pope assured us that the students starting in year 12 in Sept 2017 would be allowed to see their 2 years out at SBA. Without this assurance, we would have looked elsewhere. My daughter chose this 6th form because she was comfortable there and trusted the teachers to give her good A level outcomes. Please do not let these young people down at this already stressful time in their lives.

7.

6th form has made sandown bay academy, and has stayed the one positive thing even when the school was in special measures.

The 6th form is convenient for people living in sandown, bembridge, brading, shanklin and lake. One of the reasons I decided to stay at sandown was because it was convenient and I like being taught by the teachers I had lower down in school.

Many teachers at sandown love teaching the 6th form students and is a reason why they chose to stay working at this school. Taking away the 6th form is going to take subjects such as graphic communication and sociology which teachers love to teach.

By forcing students to attend education in Newport will make them pay ridiculous amounts for transport on the island and is a huge factor of why students chose to stay at sandown 6th form.

8.

The closure of the sixth form at Sandown Bay Academy has got to be the most ludicrous plan that has been made to this school. Sandown Bay Academy has been in special measures and has been slatted for it, as well as the amount of head teachers we have been through and the one and only thing that has always had positive feedback is the sixth form including the best A-level results last year. Speaking as a student in year 13, i can agree with all the positive feedback our sixth form has had, from the level of teaching to the sophisticated and professional look of our area. One thing that my teachers have said is that they work at the school so they can teach most years but especially sixth formers, most of my teachers have already discussed they most probably wouldn't stay as teachers if you got rid of our sixth form which means loosing high quality teachers which has shown through the results last year. Another issue is that because of government changing the laws saying we must stay in education until 18, students will then be forced to travel to either Newport or Ryde for example just to attend sixth form, this means the local students of Sandown who would have to travel to Newport sixth form would be paying £70 a month for bus travel just to meet the requirements of the government, that's £840 a year... this is now not only affecting the students educational needs but also putting more stress on the family to pay for this. Sandown isn't the best of areas but the sixth form gave the opportunity for students to progress in career finding and gave them that bit of hope they can do so much with their life by attending our sixth form and becoming successful. An example of Sandown Sixth form producing successful students is last year when an A-level art student got top marks due to the help and support he got from our highly qualified teachers and is now working with the BBC in graphic designing. My year is the only year that has been through all the years here at Sandown due to the disturbance of the 3 tier education system changing to 2 and now the possible closure of the sixth form. Yes it may not affect me as i will be gone by the decision but i have 2 younger siblings who were planning to attend the sixth form here at Sandown because it is convenient to travel to and they are used to the teachers so their subject teachers know how the children work best so they can achieve the best grades, as well as most children not liking change which would discourage them on applying to a different and distant sixth forms, do you really want to jeopardize a child's future of being successful because you don't want to keep the sixth form open? Would you want the burden of knowing

you could've saved many students future lives but decided not to because of money? Does their education even matter to you anymore? I personally think if you were to shut down the sixth form there would be so many parents/students/teachers/general public on your case protesting to reopen it, it would create so much hassle and you would be wasting your time in closing it because no matter happens people will not stop fighting for our sixth as we are such a passionate community and we won't go down without one heck of a fight.

9.

I write in reference to the consultation on the above school and its plan to increase the upper age limit, effectively to replace Sandown Bay Academy.

I would like to comment that I support the expanded school retaining the sixth form provision currently in place and therefore an upper age limit of 18 years old. The sixth form is vital for the community and whilst not as well attended as in the past, with the change of provider for the school, if retained, I am sure this would increase over the coming years back to the previous levels.

10.

As a parent of a child in year 12 to say I was shocked, saddened and horrified at your decision to close the sixth form at S.B.A would be an understatement. I understand the financial reasons behind it but have a list of questions I would like answering please;

Why didn't you notify us of this change before the school term started?

What is the proposed plan for the current year 12's?

Will they be able to continue their studies at S.B.A?

What provisions will be put in place to increase numbers of sixth form places in already overcrowded schools on the Island?

Do you understand the importance of continuity, routine and stability for a child?

Do the people who made this decision only think about money?

Do the people who made this decision have any compassion?

Would you be prepared to come and talk to the students and parents and tell them why?

No parent in their right mind would have sent their children to 6th form at the beginning of last term given the uncertain future of the school. I did not want my daughter to go there, it was her choice. Her reason being the teachers, its that simple you see. So to take her out of this school at end of year 12 would be setting her up to fail her A levels. She is settled and happy here the teachers know her capabilities, her insecurities, her strengths, weaknesses etc, so you can see just how detrimental it would be for her to move schools before the end of year 13.

In light of the shambolic mess that is SBA the sixth form numbers were never going to be at the governments requirements to make a 6th form viable. A school of that size serving the large area that it does needs a 6th form it is ludicrous to think otherwise. What about future students? Secondary education on the Island is appalling, this is just another example of poor management with no thought given to these children. How can our children expect to achieve and inspire when they are constantly having huge hurdles in their way?

I was recently told by a member of the Isle of Wight council that I have become disillusioned. What I am is beyond disappointed in a system that is incapable of giving children their fundamental right to a good education, this is the basic stuff we are talking about and still it seems an impossibility. I hope you can explain some of my concerns.

11.

I would like to make it known that as a parent and a teacher, I am greatly concerned at the loss of the Sixth Form in Sandown if proposals go ahead to extend the upper age limit of the school to just 16. I personally know several teachers who will look for alternative employment if they don't have the option of teaching the subjects they love at a higher level. This will have the inevitable result of bringing in more inexperienced (or trainee) staff to fill the gaps left behind - a school needs experienced teachers alongside those new to the profession. The children left behind in all this will be the most affected by this loss of experience.

I feel that there should be some provision for 6th form in Sandown and the Bay Area as if children are not needing to travel farther to school, they will have more time and energy to focus on their studies. So long as there is a solid plan in place for how the whole island will be used to deliver post-16 education, this could be part of a network of campuses. I do not think it is at all fair to say there will be nothing in place here.

I hope you will take all your responses into account and look forward to hearing back.

12.

I am led to believe that comments regarding the proposed closure of Sandown Bay 6th Form should be forwarded to this address.

As a local resident of the Bay area, who not only attended Sandown High School, but now also has children that will studying for their A-Levels in the near future, I am saddened and distressed that the Local Council have proposed the closure of the 6th Form. Whilst I cannot say that there is not a degree of personal emotion attached to this, my concern is not just for the impact on the children that would normally be attending the 6th Form, but also for the future of the Bay area. The closure of the 6th form may not, in isolation, trigger a significant demise of the Bay, but when combined with a lack of inward investment over the past 4 decades, the downward trend of the tourist industry and an aging population, this appears to be yet another nail in the coffin.

At a time when the area is in desperate need of an injection of investment to attract and retain a younger generation and to promote further the worth and value of the area, the Council appears

to be doing the opposite. The removal of the 6th Form will further denude the draw of the area for younger generations and thus exasperate its continued economic decline.

But it would be remiss if the argument for retaining the 6th Form were to be based purely upon the economic decline of the area without consideration of the people for whom will be impacted most directly – the children! Yes, there are of course other A-Level and Further Education providers on the Island but attendance will mean additional travel for many without any form of recompense, as well as moving pupils from the school they have known and grown within to a new environment when stability is what they really need.

When considering the facilities that are present at Sandown Bay, from the outstanding sports facilities; including the only athletics track on the Island, the proximity of the public transport links; most notably Sandown Train Station, and a site that has huge potential for growth and development in the future, I struggle to understand that of all the options available for reducing Further Education across the Island, how this could possibly be considered either sensible or pragmatic. It appears to be a true decision of ease rather than that of a well thought and considered approach for the betterment of the Island as a whole.

13.

I am emailing in response to the proposal to extend the age range of The Bay primary school.

Sandown deserves a 6th form. The 6th form at Sandown has always been successful, my 2 eldest children attended and now my son is due to attend. The 6th form at Sandown has been methodically stripped of its numbers to prop up Ryde Academy. Teachers want to teach A levels and current year 11 pupils want to stay on and achieve good results.

Why close a 6th form in this area of the Island, meaning all 6th form provision is in the centre or north of the Island?

There is no funding for travel costs for post 16 children, so families will have to fund travel themselves. These costs alone will prevent many children attending as a high percentage of them are from disadvantaged families.

The 'new' school must embrace the provision of post 16 education, a successful 6th form in the bay area is a necessity.

14.

As a parent of a current Year 9 pupil, I wish to state my strong support for the retention of a Sixth Form at the School.

Whilst it is clear that currently, due to all the problems with AET mismanagement, both the reputation of the School and pupil numbers have fallen dramatically, it must be better to keep and develop the currently outstanding Sixth Form achievement, than to lose it forever?

The School, once removed from AET control, will I am sure recover, and if it is in any way possible to fund a Sixth Form, say for a fixed period of time, to see if numbers that wish to enter do indeed go up, then shouldn't this at least be tried?

I am aware that it is proposed to completely reorganise Sixth Form provision on the Island, and the current Education Portfolio holder for the IOW Council has stated that he wishes Sandown to be the best performing non-private School, and I am bound to say that I find this difficult to understand, if at the same time the Sixth Form at Sandown is to be closed.

It is better, surely, to have a School in the Bay that covers Education from 4-18, even if it means that the Sixth Form provides only some (perhaps core, especially Maths, English & Science) A-Levels.

There is more than one answer to the current dilemma over fragmented uneconomic Sixth Form provision on the Island, and perhaps the current "crisis" could or should be seen as more of an "opportunity", to provide a 21st Century Sixth Form.

I am aware of Universities that provide complete Degree courses on-line, with minimal actual attendance-cannot technology be harnessed to make Sandown a centre of excellence, with a similar approach?

Such a model would of necessity involve cost sharing, and would assist in conquering budget issues, as these are obviously of huge importance given the current financial and political climate.

It has got to be worth a try.

15.

My daughter is at Sandown Bay Academy, and in year 11. She wishes to do A levels to achieve her goal to get into theatres, Tv and movies to be a successful theatrical make up artist! We live in Shanklin and feel there should be a local sixth form for her and others to, because familiarity is key to her success and stability! She also has a sibling in year 8 to which she would also do sixth form A level. Please please KEEP it open for our future professionals.

16.

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm currently a student at Sandown Bay Academy and have been for the last 5 years, I have also thoroughly enjoyed my education at Sandown Bay Academy. Firstly I have never been more disgusted by a group of adults in my life who are supposed to be "dedicated" to my education, considering this is your only job I'm shocked at how bad you are at it. Following this, my first question to you is where is your duty of care? It's very clear to everyone that the only matter at hand is money, not whether my education as well as everyone else's is disrupted, the money you are putting into funding our travel for a solid year can be put into action to do your best to save our education at Sandown Bay Academy. It's honestly not very hard and a 17 year old girl should not have to be the one telling you this. Within the New Right it's made very clear that education is run like a business and we are supposed to sell our school as best we can to the parents who have the equal right to chose the

best school for their child. Do you think a parent is going to choose a “through school” with no sixth form? It’s evident you’ve got some re thinking to do, it’s very short sighted of you because in a couple of years time the free school will have students needing to go to a sixth form as they haven’t got one, so where do you think all these children will go?

One more thing, our sixth form has THE BEST results on the island and if you think we are “bettering” the island by shipping us off to another sixth form that doesn’t have the same quality of teaching then you’ve got another thing coming. After encouraging us to enrol here and allowing it, Brian Pope has really dropped you in it, we were promised year 12 and 13. You’ve made a mess now it’s time to clear it up.

17.

Although I do agree with the increase in the age limit of the bay primary school to 16, I do not believe it goes far enough as regards to the retaining a 6th form. We keep being told that the numbers are not sufficient, which I believe is a very short sighted view as the birth rate is climbing, primary schools are filling up fast and other schools that do not have a 6th form , such as free schools, will need places for their pupils. My daughter currently attends SBA and has had her education disrupted at this school for long enough. We need stability in this area and at this school especially as the exam results are so good at SBA. WHERE IS your duty of care???.

18.

I am writing to let you know how important it is that we keep Sixth Form at Sandown Bay Academy, not only for the Students now but in the future. Up until AET became involved and slowly destroyed it, the school 6th Form at Sandown was considered to be one of the best on the Island & I am very happy to say that as a result of that 6th Form my own Son came away with A & B passes in 4 subjects – due to the dedication of the teachers when all around them were failing these children.

I now find myself in the most awful situation that my daughter is in the first year of A levels not knowing what the future holds for her. I think it is absolutely appalling that you would even consider closing a 6th Form when you actually have Students enrolled especially when Mr Brian Pugh was asked directly if the pupils should apply to the Sixth Form in July 2017 and he said absolutely as the 6th Form would still be running. I am aware that it is all to do with numbers of Students – but if things had been more certain regarding the future of the school then you would not have lost so many of the Students after GSCE’s so the reduction in numbers has been caused by the Education providers not by the lack of need in the community.

Some pupils have returned to the 6th Form having left after GSCE’s as they are finding that the travelling to various A level providers on & off the Island is impossible for them. I have heard that pupils are travelling between 4 & 5 hours a day – and believe it or not that is ON the Island – our Bus system was already poor & has been subjected to lots of cuts so often it is a 2 hour wait between buses to some areas. We need the 6th Form provision at Sandown to cover the areas of Sandown, Shanklin, Bembridge, St Helens & the smaller villages surrounding this – there are children in these towns that will attend Sandown 6th Form if stability is resumed.

I don't know what my daughter will do at this stage, what I do know is that she is struggling to cope with the uncertainty. She is fulfilling her roll & attending school every day but I do not feel as Education Providers that you are fulfilling yours for these children. Most of her teachers don't really want to teach them, can't be bothered to be there & are looking for other jobs. The support staff are the same & spend a lot of time off sick with stress or crying in front of the pupils. What sort of atmosphere do you think this is for this young people to be in daily? I bet you wouldn't choose it for your child? I didn't choose it for mine – you people did & I feel completely helpless. I am disgusted at the lack of contact with the Parents & Students before this information became public – I heard about my child's fate by text from a friend. If this is how it had to be then each child should have been looked at individually (after all there are only a few of them!!) Subjects noted, exam boards at all alternatives confirmed and then Child & Parents spoken to about the options. You still haven't checked any of this but you are asking the children for preferences – how can they show a preference without any information?

Day in & day out we are bombarded from School, the media and the Education Providers about the importance of sending our Children to school on a regular basis – as a parent I have made that commitment (and please feel free to check both of my children's school attendance records) WHERE is your commitment to my child & to the others in the Community that actually do want an education. Education is one thing in Society that we are actually entitled too – if I don't send my child to school I can get fined or ultimately imprisoned – if you do not provide my child with the School to attend what do you get? & by that I don't just mean any old school but the school doing the same A levels, with the same exam boards and teaching the syllabus in the same order so that they don't miss half of the modules – that should be your commitment to my daughter & all the other Pupils in the 6th Form.

Mental Health for the young is becoming a massive concern & it is such a worry that while the Education Providers are more worried about Student Numbers, Subject streams and pass rates the actual wellbeing of the Students is being over looked.

19.

I fully support this proposal.

20.

I wish it recorded that I support the above proposal

21.

I am a current year 12 sixth form student at Sandown Bay Academy and therefor am suffering greatly from the consequences of the decision at hand to close the sixth form. I am strongly against this as it not only disrupts my my education presently, but causes huge inconveniences in the continuation of my secondary education. I would have move school, change teachers, possibly change/alter my courses and also travel much further daily. The cost of my travel will

also be an issue because it is much more than the amount I already have to pay to access my education. All of this means that I will be forced to do something that I strongly don't want to do and certainly did not choose to do!

I understand that the Bay primary school will be taking leadership of our school and the governing body (AET) are no longer involved us, but I believe it to be absolutely outrageous that my year group are left to deal with the consequences of this.

The Bay could continue to provide a sixth form on this site, which would not only benefit me, but also the hundreds of other students that were, and will be planning to go there. I believe that the Bay's management will improve the sixth form and make it a desired place for student's to study their A-levels.

22.

I wish to make my feelings known with regard to the proposal to no longer have a sixth form at Sandown Bay Academy.

There are a number of reasons that I believe this would be the completely wrong decision.

The current year 12 were allowed to continue into the sixth form, never expecting for their courses to be curtailed. This does not leave them with many choices and those that are available are far from adequate for their needs. This could have an adverse effect on their entire future. They surely do not need any further disruption to their education.

The college nor the Free School offer a sixth form, which raises the question: where will the students reaching sixth form age in a couple of years go?, if there is no provision at Sandown Bay, this whole proposal appears to me to be extremely shortsighted.

In addition, SBA currently have the best A level results on the island.

Is there any sense at all in the proposal, I think not.

23.

As a parent who has a daughter in year 3 of the bay as well as being a teacher who will be starting at Sandown Bay in January 2018. I would like to register my support for the change of age at The Bay Primary.

I consider this important as young people should be able to access high quality secondary provision as close as possible to home. This plan offers the best opportunity for this to happen at Sandown.

A successful through school will raise educational standards in the east of the Island as well as providing a more settled educational environment due to eliminating the need to transfer from primary to secondary.

Furthermore the community of Sandown and Lake need the presence of the secondary school to further boost the economic regeneration of the area.

24.

I am the grandmother of an ex 6th form student at SBA who at present is in his 2nd year at Cardiff University. Many friends are also at university around the country and In his words,' the 6th form is the best part of the school'. Children who go on the study in the 6th form are a good example to the younger students, who see for themselves what can be achieved. I wonder, how many of members of the committee, contemplating closing this, actually live in the area and have had direct contact with the school. The school was put into special measures but this did not include the 6th form. I think that, comparing past results with other schools around the Island would show as being very favourable. Ryde Academy is in a not very accessible place for any pupils to reach. It is not on a bus route and the train stations are a distance away. Sandown Bay Academy is two minutes from the station with trains from both Ryde and Shanklin. The main bus routes 8,2 and 3 are also an easy walk from the school. The fares on the Island are some of the most expensive in the country and I would be very interested in how many of your committee actually use the public transport on the Island.It would be a much better option for the 6th form to be moved to Sandown there are very good teachers there, the sporting facilities are excellent, thus promoting a healthy life style. To close it would yet another educational mistake.

25.

I write in connection with the Proposal to convert The Bay CE Primary School an All Through School to cater for pupils aged 4-16. I am a Governor of the Cornerstone Federation, a resident of Niton and parent to two children aged 9 and 10.

I fully support the Proposal. I believe that it is the most effective way of educating secondary age children in Sandown and the surrounding areas. It avoids the need for those children and their families to have their education and their lives disrupted by having to travel to school in Newport or Ryde. It also means that the school will not be at risk, as has been the case recently, if it is run by an Academy Trust that loses heart and chooses to exit that relationship.

There are many challenges that lie ahead in addressing the points raised by Ofsted at the school in the Summer. The Proposal maximises the chance of this occurring so that the school can provide an excellent standard of education in future. Under the Proposal support will be provided by the Local Authority, aided by Hampshire County Council. The established structure within the Cornerstone Federation to provide first class learning will be enhanced by a full range of targeted educational, operational and financial support to ensure a successful future. I believe that the outcome would be significantly worse for pupils under any alternative options, which also lack public support.

All pupils deserve the best possible standard of education. Secondary pupils in Sandown have not received this in recent years through no fault of their own. It is incumbent on the Local Authority to address the situation and rectify it as soon as possible. In conclusion, I believe the Proposal provides the most effective means of doing so to effect lasting change at the School.

26.

I am a student here at Sandown Bay sixth form, in year 12, and so therefore will suffer the consequences of the proposed closure of the sixth form in September. Having finished my GCSEs at the end of year 11 I was faced with the decision as to what to do next. I considered this carefully and decided that staying at Sandown Bay sixth form would be the best option for me, as it is not only the most convenient and accessible place to reach but also I was confident about the support and help I would get from the sixth form teachers. The proposed closure of the sixth form not only affects me and my future, along with the other students who chose to come here, but also all the years below who are now left without the sixth form they wanted to go to. The distress it has caused my classmates and I will have a direct impact on our education, not only now as we wonder what to do next year but also when we are faced with starting a new sixth form with different teachers, classrooms, location, and even possibly having to start new courses. Although our sixth form may be small, and may only have 60 students, we are still 60 people who are being left with difficult decisions as to what to do and how we are going to finish our A levels, 60 people who deserve to finish their education where they chose to start it.

I understand there is an issue with having such a small sixth form, even if you could leave the sixth form open for just one more year to allow us to finish our education without disruption would be massively beneficial.

27.

I would welcome the above-mentioned proposal if the upper age limit were to be increased to 18, so as to include sixth form provision in the Bay area of the Island. I do not support this alteration, however, should the upper age range be 16, and wish to raise the following concerns regarding the potential loss of sixth form education, and why it is absolutely imperative that we retain a sixth form provision in Sandown:-

- There is no funding for travel for post 16 studies on the Island and The Bay CE Primary School's recent SIAMS inspection report of November 2017 states that there are above average levels of deprivation within their pupils. Closure of the SBA Sixth Form will therefore preclude many capable children from less wealthy families from studying for A levels as bus fares will be around £600 each year. It is extremely unfair that these students will be disadvantaged for this reason, and I believe that the IW Council should cover travel costs that are being imposed should they decide not to continue with sixth form provision in this area. These pupils must not be precluded from a sixth form education that would have otherwise been available to them.
- The sixth form at Sandown Bay is successful, and the most academically effective section of the school, with excellent A level results which have continued to be above average despite the turmoil created by the current uncertainties in the future of the school.
- The sixth form inspires younger students to learn and behave well. It sets them an excellent example and provides them with a visible educational goal to work towards, while raising standards and ambitions within the school and local area.
- The sixth form attracts higher quality teachers to the school with more in-depth subject knowledge that in turn benefits the whole school.

- The Government is attempting to attract students to post-16 education, and “The Brilliance Club” Scholar’s Programme, which is offered at Sandown Bay Academy, aims to support this. This strategy sets out to support pupils from under-represented backgrounds, including those less privileged, to progress to highly-selective universities. The closure of the sixth form contradicts this, particularly as those students who are most likely to be selected for this project are also those most likely to be unable to afford the cost of travel to an alternative sixth form A Level provider.
- Although it has been stated that there are currently only 39 students in Year 12 at Sandown Bay Academy, it is quite clear that this is a result of the uncertainty caused by AET regarding the future of the school, and the general feeling of uncertainty of sixth form provision that was mentioned during the consultation period. There is also currently a temporary dip in numbers of secondary age students, which is set to rise in future. Additionally, the Free School in Ventnor does not have a sixth form, and many of their academically able students are likely to prefer to choose a post-16 study provider closer to home. It could, therefore, be demonstrated that continuing a sixth form on site is, in fact, viable. An assessment of viability should be undertaken by consulting with current students and parents at secondary schools within the Bay area (including the Free School) to ascertain whether this would be their preference for post-16 education before a final decision is made regarding the closure.
- Interestingly, when I recently attended the sixth form open event at Ryde Academy with my daughter, who is in year 11 at Sandown Bay Academy, the fact that it is reasonably small was seen in a positive light, and promoted by the staff and Head Girl who mentioned that it made for a friendly, caring, environment; rather the opposite to that of a large sixth form facility with the intention of serving the whole Island.

If the upper age limit for this proposal were to remain at 16, I would not be in agreement. Although I was initially delighted that there could be an opportunity for the Bay area secondary provision to once again become under the control of the local Authority, I am now having second thoughts. I would prefer this to be taken on by an alternative academy trust if it were to guarantee the continuation of sixth form education, and if there is no other way to enable post 16 education to continue in this area.

I hope that you will take these points into consideration.

28.

Please accept this email as my notice that the proposed closure of SBA 6th form will have a detrimental effect on present and future pupils in The Bay area and the IOW as a whole.

I say this as most students/parents when looking at secondary education always look at schools that have a 6th form provision and look at the success such provision has achieved. This is also a concern as pupil numbers could dwindle for post 11 without a 6th form and we would once again face the possibility that post 11 would not be viable. Also costing post 16 is a big consideration ie public transport, as in post 11 study cost is a major factor in choosing post 16 provision.

The current and future pupils should not be penalised for the failings of the past. SBA was once "the" school to attend for it's 6th form, it's success stories, locality as well as from further afield until it was slowly whittled away and "merged" with Ryde in the last couple of years.

Two years ago my son seriously considered attending SBA 6th form after a very successful and enjoyable time there to study science but decided on a different path of music but my year 8 daughter has her heart set on continuing her studies at SBA.

I understand that at the moment there are only a handful of students but that was due to the uncertainty of the school continuing and all the upset last year caused by AET but now that has been settled and stability is now forecast I believe that the 6th form can once again be the premier post 16 provision on the Island.

29.

I fully welcome the proposal for an all through school, 4-16 years. However, I am very concerned that 16-18 years are not provided for in this report. We have above average levels of deprivation in this area and to send our 6th form pupils to what will be the nearest establishment will cost around £600 bus fare per year .which will preclude many parents the opportunity of their child receiving further education.

Additionally the present 6th Form is the most academically effective part of the Academy with many pupils gaining Oxbridge entry. Without this the school will not be able to attract the quality of teachers which benefit the whole school.

The uncertainty of continued education has resulted in only 39 students remaining at the Academy many of them moving to alternative schools to ensure their education continues in their chosen field. Ventnor does not have a 6th form and would be Sandown's nearest neighbour. I am sure consultation with other schools would result in more pupils wishing to attend Sandown Bay before a final decision is made on the upper age limit.. Perhaps consultation with the present Year 11s would clarify this.

Finally only today in Prime Ministers Questions, the Prime Minister said her Government was providing a "Britain fit for the Future" in education.

Please consider the vital education of post 16 year olds when deciding their future.

30.

I am distressed to hear that you are considering closing the sixth form at Sandown for many reasons and trust you will consider these when making decisions:

1. Current Y12 students are being horribly let down. Councils closed middle schools with an argument of fewer transitions for students, now in their penultimate year of schooling, students are being disrupted by having their school closed. This is a disgusting abuse of their trust in starting a programme of study and not being allowed to complete it without upset. Such upset is entirely likely to negatively affect their progress and attainment which will have far reaching effects into their futures including fewer opportunities of the best

places to study resulting in lower paid employment and a cycle of poorer living conditions for their lives. For this reason alone and the protection of every student's future, the Y12 students should be enabled to complete their sixth form education at their chosen venue.

2. Sandown/Lake is not a wealthy area and every child who lives in, or near it, will have to travel to enjoy post 16 education, a basic right and required by law. This is a huge financial burden to put upon families.
3. Traveling from the Sandown side of the island to Newport or Ryde takes a considerable amount of time. This puts added stress on students as they have to spend large amounts of time traveling which could be better spent studying, resting or socialising if they had a sixth form near to their homes.
4. Sandown is the best performing sixth form on the island, yet no provision has been made to harness the expertise of the staff working in the sixth form. These are being forced to move away from the school to ensure they are able to provide for their families, despite it being difficult to recruit to island schools. Losing teachers has a huge negative impact on the entire school, not only the sixth form.
5. Untrue reasons have been quoted for closing the sixth form saying the law states that a new sixth form must have 200 students and 15 lines of study. This may be so, however The Bay will be extending and not opening a new school so it is entirely reasonable to extend provision to 18, the legal age that students must be in education, rather than to 16.
6. Falling role has been quoted for closing the sixth form however AET staff actively advised students not to choose the sixth form last year. Given a few years to overcome the impact of AET's influence, it is probable that the sixth form would re-establish itself as a strong and viable sixth form, as it had been prior to AET's involvement.
7. The suggestion of having 1 sixth form on the isle takes away Student choice.
8. Education should not be planned around a few people's political careers. Think of the children and what is best for them. It is widely proven that private schools with fewer students than large schools or colleges secure better grades for their students. As such, small sixth forms can provide far better care and nurture of individual students and help them to achieve their very best rather than becoming a number in a super size institution. For the young people of this area, nurture is a huge benefit and is provided very well at Sandown through a team that have got to know the students over a number of years and can best support them. Moving away from their secondary school for sixth form places large emotional and social stresses on more vulnerable students.
9. Should the sixth form be closed, it is very unlikely to be able to be opened again when the mistake is realised and every future Student will be disadvantaged. Please support the sixth form to stay open and regain its past success.

Thank you for your serious consideration.

31.

I am concerned to hear that you are considering closing the sixth form at Sandown for many reasons and trust you will consider these when making decisions:

1. Current Y12 students are being let down. Councils closed middle schools with an argument of fewer transitions for students, now in their penultimate year of schooling, students are being disrupted by having their school closed. This is a disturbing given their trust in starting a programme of study and not being allowed to complete it without upset. Such upset is entirely likely to negatively affect their progress and attainment which will have far-reaching effects into their futures including fewer opportunities of the best places to study resulting in lower paid employment and a cycle of poorer living conditions for their lives. For this reason

alone and the protection of every student's future, the Y12 students should be enabled to complete their sixth form education at their chosen venue.

2. Sandown/Lake is not a wealthy area and every child who lives in, or near it, will have to travel to enjoy post 16 education, a basic right and required by law. This is a huge financial burden to put on families.
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9. Should the sixth form be closed, it is very unlikely to be able to be opened again when the mistake is realised and every future Student will be disadvantaged. Please support the sixth form to stay open and regain its past success.

Thank you in advance for your consideration

32.

In response to the proposal to shut the 6th Form at what now is Sandown Bay Academy I would like to make the following comments -

When Sandown advertised their 6th Form provision for enrolment it was without any kind of warning that students would not be able to see their studies through. My son would not have signed up to his course if there was any inkling that it would be closing. Therefore we strongly feel that under a Duty Of Care the students that are currently at Sandown need to be able to see out their studies there. If a business is taken over, the 'purchaser' has a duty to the existing employees, this should be no different.

It should also be noted that this cohort of students managed to survive the chaos surrounding schools reorganisation on the Island, crawled from the wreckage inflicted on the school by AET, experienced a new (some would say experimental) GCSE exam structure and now have been mis-sold their A-Levels.

At the meeting held by Hampshire and the School on 22nd of November it was very clear that the students, staff and parents supported 'Option 3', that the school sees the existing cohort of students through their course as some recompense for the harm already inflicted on them by the education system.

Letters received:



PARISH CLERK and RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

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10 November 2017

Mr Richard Vaughan
Deputy Head of Strategic Development
Children's Services
HCC
The Castle
WINCHESTER
SO23 8UG

Dear Mr Vaughan

The Bay CE Primary School, Sandown

I am writing to let you know that Lake Parish Council has formally resolved to support the proposal to alter the upper age limit to effect a voluntary controlled all-through 4-16 school utilising the Sandown Bay Academy site and buildings. The Parish Council accepts that this will not include six form provision.

Yours sincerely

21st November 2017

Dear Councillor Brading,

11-18 education in Sandown Bay

Thank you for your letter of 10th November in response to my letter of 4th October.

I repeat my request for an urgent meeting to discuss this important issue. Could you please, in addition, respond to the points raised below?

On behalf of our members at Sandown Bay Academy, I also ask that you meet the Staff at the Academy, to explain your decisions about the Sixth Form and to outline your vision for the School.

While acknowledging that individual students may make valid choices to travel, when considering the entire cohort of the Bay Area, the NEU remains convinced that Sixth Form education can and must be retained in Sandown. We have outlined below, some arguments in support of that view.

1. Students in Sandown Bay have a right to education in their area

The arguments, so eloquently made during the Summer, for the retention of Secondary Education in Sandown, apply equally to the preservation of 16-18 provision.

You should be reminded that in your survey during the summer, 93% of respondents (1693 people) supported the continuation of the Sixth Form on the Sandown Bay site.

The idea of large numbers of students travelling from the Bay Area, in order to access education, has already been rejected as difficult, expensive and detrimental to their educational experience. This applies just as well to post-16 students as it does to younger students.

Yet again it would be the most disadvantaged students who would be worst affected.

The Council must be mindful of the life-chances for all students in the Bay Area, not simply those who are easily able to travel.

2. The education of the existing Year 12 is under threat

The existing Year 12 students at Sandown Bay Academy, and other centres around the Island, were the last year group to enter Middle Schools (into Year 5) in September 2009. They were then transferred to the new High Schools as the first cohort of Year 7 pupils in September 2011.

This was a period of great turmoil in Island Education. Teachers were moved between schools over a two-year period. Yet again, it is this same year group which is bearing the brunt of educational structural reform on the Island.

Those students and families who have been most loyal to education in Sandown, in progressing onto the Sixth Form there, have been the hardest hit.

These same students now face the prospect of losing all of their existing Teachers for the second year of their A-level studies.

You will be aware how important the Sixth Form is, in career-forming and decision-making for students aspiring to Higher Education. It is essential that they be supported by Teachers who know them.

3. The Sixth Form in Sandown has performed well over several years

It is important not to be misled by the erroneous arguments, which were advanced from some quarters, about alleged low standards of post-16 education in Sandown. The reality is that the Sixth Form results last Summer at Sandown Bay Academy were in line with the national average, with Value Added scores improved on the year before. Additionally, the percentage of A*s achieved by students again is in line with the national average.

This was achieved despite the tumultuous events of the last academic year.

4. In future, there would be enough students for a Sixth Form in Sandown

You suggest that there are clear Department for Education guidelines that 200 students and 15 courses are required for a new Sixth Form. We have found no legislation or guidance document which stipulates this number. We are, however, aware of Sixth Forms which are starting this year, with far fewer than 200 students.

It should be noted that the numbers in the Sixth Form in Sandown were consistently far higher, prior to the Academies Enterprise Trust taking over the school. In addition, the importance of a Sixth Form in attracting and retaining good Teachers must not be ignored.

You also suggest that a figure closer to 400 students is needed to be 'financially and therefore economically viable'. We believe that you are conflating an economic argument with an educational one, whereas the education of the students must always be the first concern.

We believe the current funding shortfalls will not be the long-term situation. We would encourage you to take a long-term educational view and to acknowledge the uncertainty around the national policy landscape in the years to come.

The existing Secondary School in Sandown has already taken steps to reduce costs: the Sixth Form Leadership costs have been reduced and the range of courses has reduced, some naturally through specification changes, others due to reduced numbers. The existing collaboration with Ryde Academy allows for larger more viable classes to run, with some courses running at only one of the Schools.

As this is a new collaboration, we suggest that more time is needed to assess the impact of this policy before moving onto another, untried policy. It is injurious to education when changes are continually made with no time to embed or evaluate them.

You suggest that 'finance is being drained away from the 11-16 provision' to fund the Sixth Form. In the short-term, this may be the case, although the existing Sixth Form students are on lagged funding; however, those lower school pupils will eventually benefit from the sustention of the Sixth Form. Additionally, this form of funding is not unique. The funding formula on the Isle of Wight already diverts funding away from secondary provision to primary schools because of the large number of single form entry primary schools here.

We would suggest that there needs to be a rigorous review of the curriculum offer at the school prior to any decision to remove the Sixth Form. This should include the provision for vocational courses and adult education.

With so many incisions made over the last decade, in the structure of the secondary school in Sandown, the risk is that all we are left with is scar tissue.

We would urge you to reconsider the decision on the Sixth Form in Sandown and make representation on this issue to the Department for Education.

This letter forms part of the National Education Union's response to the statutory consultation on extending the age range of the Bay Primary.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Dominic Coughlin

Secretary

National Education Union (NUT Section)