



Durrington High School

*The Boulevard
Worthing
West Sussex BN13 1JX*



Proposal to create sixth form provision from September 2025

The consultation will run from *11th March - 29th March 2024*

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Y10 Collecting their 'Tracking Point 2' results - March 2024

1. Vision

Durrington High School is a large, successful and over-subscribed 11-16 school serving the western side of the town of Worthing, in West Sussex.

For many years there have been questions asked by students, parents and staff about why our students have to leave the school they love and are successful at to access post 16 education. With a strong track record of academic success across the curriculum, excellent pastoral care and amazing facilities, this is a question we too have been asking ourselves.

Dialogue with parents about this has been ongoing for many years. In January 2024 we decided to formalise this, with a survey to students, parents and staff to see if there was a real appetite for a sixth form at Durrington. The results indicated the desire for post 16 provision at Durrington is stronger than ever:

- 99% of parents stated that they would like there to be a sixth form at Durrington.
- 91% of the current Y10 (who would be our first cohort) have indicated that they would like there to be a sixth form at Durrington.
- 100% of staff relish the opportunity of having a sixth form at Durrington.

One of our parents said:

"I was really disappointed when no school in Worthing had a 6th form. I believe my children would have a good routine, I know they'll be safe and be held accountable with their studies. They would also have consistent teachers they've known for 5yrs. They would know my children's strengths & weaknesses." DHS Parent, January 2024

We feel that the time is right to take this next exciting step in the journey of the school. Our aspiration is to create a large, inclusive and thriving sixth form, serving our students, but also the students from the wider Worthing community. We would welcome applications from students outside of Durrington High School.

Our large, modern and spacious site lends itself perfectly to accommodating a sixth form. As a result, we will not need to create any additional buildings. We will repurpose some of our existing spaces into modern and discrete social and work spaces for our sixth form students.

Our students do amazing things with us in the five years they are with us. The prospect of continuing this into a sixth form is incredibly exciting.

2. Context

Durrington High School is a high performing over-subscribed, non-selective, mixed 11-16 school in Worthing. We currently have 1613 students on roll. It is a part of the Durrington Multi Academy Trust (DMAT)¹

Our facilities, developed as a result of years of excellent financial planning, management and investment provide us with a strong and stable platform upon which to develop our sixth form provision. We currently have three sports halls, a floodlit all weather pitch and a brand new state of the art performing arts centre, the only one of this standard in Worthing. Investment taking place in summer holidays (2024) will include:

- Full refurbishment of three Science laboratories, these have been designed with Sixth form students in mind and this enhances our already outstanding STEM provision.
- A new purpose-built fitness centre.

In addition to this, the school building is already designed to accommodate almost 2000 students.

We have excellent teachers with very strong subject knowledge who understand our students and our community. They are hugely committed to ensuring every child has the best possible education and care. The prospect of our students remaining at Durrington High School for an additional two years is one that excites staff students and parents and has been at the forefront of our thinking for a number years. As a Research School² our teachers are exceptionally well trained in the most successful pedagogy. This was recognised in our most recent OFSTED inspection (March 2022, graded 'Good'):

*"Subject leaders are highly knowledgeable and passionate. They provide training to ensure that teachers have expert knowledge of each topic. This contributes strongly to the quality of pupils' learning across the school, which is consistently effective. Teachers explain concepts clearly and provide opportunities for pupils to practise their learning with increasing independence."*³

The report also identified the school as *"happy, ambitious and built on strong relationships between teachers and pupils"*. Strong curriculum design, excellent evidence-informed teaching and caring, positive relationships are cornerstones to effective Post 16 Provision.

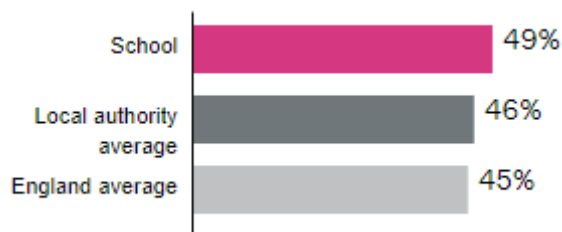
"My daughter could continue in an environment she is comfortable and happy in and has a good relationship with the staff." DHS Parent, January 2024.

¹ <https://dmat.education/>

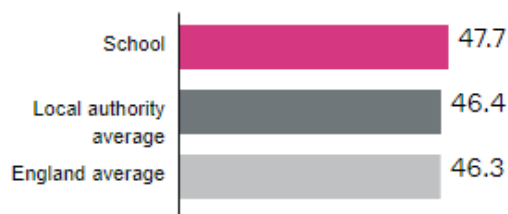
² <https://researchschool.org.uk/durrington/>

³ <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50184424>

In recent years the school has continued to develop a large and successful Y11 community who, disappointingly, have to become disparate due to the local Post 16 provision. In 2023, attainment in English and maths (grade 5+) was above local and national averages:



Our Attainment 8 score was also above local and national averages:



This academic success extends beyond English and maths too. In 2023, 60% of subjects achieved beyond national averages at grade 5+. Our current Y10 (who would be our first sixth form cohort) are pushing this even further. In their most recent tracking point (February 2024) 78% of subjects achieved above the four year rolling national average, at grade 5+.

This level of academic success puts this cohort of students in a strong position to excel in their studies in the sixth form - if they were able to maintain the strong relationships that exist with their teachers.

3. Local Provision

Worthing is unique within West Sussex towns. There are currently only two further education providers run by a single provider; Worthing College and Northbrook college, the latter focusing on technical education. There are six secondary schools within the Worthing area. St Oscar Romero Catholic School is planning to open a small sixth form in September 2024, but the other five (including us) do not currently have a sixth form. Extending beyond Worthing, the Angmering School, Sir Robert Woodard Academy (Lancing), The Littlehampton Academy and Shoreham Academy are schools that have sixth forms. This limits parental and student choice in the Worthing area, particularly in vocational and A level provision.

"I would like to see more 6th form options across Worthing. The current availability is restricted. Key would also be the scope of A levels the 6th form could offer" DHS Parent, January 2024

The West Sussex Education and Learning Strategy 2023-25 states:

*"...work with schools and colleges to ensure a broad range of Post-16 courses appropriate to student's needs and interests that offer value for money. This requires a fundamental review of how Post-16 provision is organised across the county to ensure equality of access to a diverse range of programmes and qualifications locally."*⁴

Whilst it isn't clear when and how this review will take place, by contributing to broadening the post 16 offer across Worthing, we are supporting this strategy. The strategy goes on to say:

"Pathways and provision for students after 16 years of age varies across the county. There can be limited opportunities for the full range of options in some areas leading to students having either to travel to find the courses they want to study or pursue local courses to which they may not be suited"

A concrete example of this in our locality is the lack of opportunity to study post 16 performing arts courses. This curriculum area is a strength of Durrington and so our sixth form proposal will enable our students to thrive in this area. This is supported by parents:

"We would like to see a variety of courses such as the arts that are now lacking in the local area due to colleges closing their programmes" DHS Parent, January 2024

Surrounding towns such as Brighton, Chichester, and Crawley have a number of school based sixth forms. This ensures good choice and that provision is geographically accessible to all students within the locality. As a result, the cost of travel does not form a determining factor as to whether further education is accessible.

Locally there are increasing numbers of 16 and 17 year old students, both within Worthing and surrounding districts. These growing numbers clearly demonstrate additional capacity is needed and would not be to the detriment of existing provision.

⁴ https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/18693/ed_learning_strategy_2023_25.pdf

This table shows the population projection estimates of 16 and 17 year olds each year from 2024 to 2030 (inclusive) compared to the 2022 value.

Local authority district (as of April 2021)	2022 population	Peak year growth (Year)	Peak year growth (Numbers)	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Adur	1410	2028	263	75	161	151	201	263	252	199
Arun	3081	2029	539	272	408	437	370	484	539	245
Worthing	2315	2025	360	332	360	325	331	333	254	212

From our year 10 survey data there is overwhelming demand for courses that include; Performing Arts, Art and Design, Computer Science, Maths and Sport.

All of these subjects are a strength of our school, taught by strong teachers with a track record of success. Many of our students would relish the opportunity to continue their studies at A level. In some circumstances there is currently limited opportunity to do this at A level.

We believe all students should have the opportunity to continue their studies in their chosen subject, in a setting with fantastic facilities and to have a choice as to where they do this.

3 year destination data shows that more than 70% of our Y11 cohorts actively seek a local offer when it comes to their post 16 education. Our students appear to favour a post 16 option that is closer to home.

The below map and corresponding table highlights travel distances from a selection of residential areas toward the West and South of Worthing.



Distance to travel - Google Maps route planner				
	To Worthing College		To Durrington High School	
	Distance	Time	Distance	Time
Sunflower Street	2.5	55	1.4	32
Saxifrage Way	3	66	1.5	33
Spey Close	2.1	48	1.5	34
Whylands Avenue	1.6	37	1.1	27
Franklin Road	1.7	37	0.8	19
Taw Close	2	45	0.9	21
Hildon Close	2.1	47	0.6	13
Robin Road	2.7	61	1.2	27
Chilgrove Close	2.9	64	1.3	29
Glynde Avenue	3.7	82	2.1	46
Viceroy court	4.5	101	2.9	64
Bury Drive	3.4	76	1.8	39
Arlington Close	3.8	85	2.1	47
The Quadrant	2.8	64	1.1	25
Trent Road	2.5	55	1.2	26
Moat Way	3.1	70	1.6	36
Lansdowne Close	2.3	53	1.8	40
Ripley Road	2.1	48	1.1	24
Ely close	1.8	42	1.2	26
Average	2.66	59.79	1.43	32.00

What this highlights is that the average travel time from these areas to Worthing College is almost double what it is to Durrington High School. This equates to an hour of lost learning each day. By providing a sixth form at Durrington, we will reduce the travel time to their post 16 education, which will be far more convenient (and cheaper) for students and their families. This matters for all students, but it is particularly important for our disadvantaged students.

“So many reasons as to why I feel a Sixth Form at our school would be amazing, but I feel it would also benefit our SEND students, who would be given the opportunity to continue with their education and give them greater opportunities within the school they have become comfortable and confident in. It would take away any unsettling and unnecessary pressures of having to readjust to yet another school environment.” DHS Parent, January 2024

4. Market Demand

Our student and parent engagement surveys demonstrated an overwhelming demand for sixth form provision at Durrington High School (see section 1).

Worthing is a growing town, much of the recent development and new housing has been toward the Western edge of the town. Worthing College is situated towards the North Eastern side of Worthing, accessibility is poor with rail links being some distance away. There are no safe cycle routes and pedestrians have to negotiate the busy and dangerous A24 and A27.

Travel distances for many students are unreasonable, with students from many areas of Worthing having to walk in excess of two hours a day to access A level provision. Sixth form provision at Durrington High School would significantly reduce travel times and distances.

Public transport is expensive. Rail and/or bus travel (even when discounted) works out to be hundreds of pounds of additional cost for families each year. Cycle route provision too is very limited and walking distances long.

Stakeholder feedback

In the initial survey our students said:

- They want travel to be easier and provision to be closer to home; they are worried about the cost of travel
- They have a high degree of trust in their teachers
- There is a strong desire to remain part of our school community

In the same survey, our parents said;

- They have trust in our school and think the quality of teaching is excellent
- They are strongly supportive of local provision and the cost benefit of this (reduced travel time, reduced travel costs and increased safety)
- They are confident their children will be well looked after and cared for
- They believe the proposal would provide continuity for their children and support their mental wellbeing
- SEND students would benefit hugely from not having to transition to a new organisation

5. Supporting Evidence

A review of the existing research evidence around school sixth forms and transitions, yielded limited results. However, below is a summary of the research evidence that does exist on these themes.

Finding:

The research has highlighted the impact that transition can have on social, intrapersonal and academic factors, especially for incomers within an unfamiliar setting and knowing few people. The impact on identity, belonging and a sense of community can be challenging, as was the case for some of the participants in this study. Therefore, supporting students to make sense of those experiences is important in promoting and maintaining belonging and adjustment during the transition phase and beyond.

Source

<https://orca.cardiff.ac.uk/id/eprint/100678/18/2017powelldedpsy2.pdf>

Finding

Pupils who attended schools without sixth forms were still less likely to achieve two A-Levels by age 19, although they were just as likely to achieve the equivalent of two A-Levels (formally, NQF Level 3). This indicates that pupils from the two types of school tend to make slightly different qualification choices post-16.

Leading on from this, pupils who attended schools without sixth forms were slightly less likely to study for, or achieve, a first degree. Chances are we'd see differences in subjects studied and institutions attended too.

Source

<https://ffteducationdatalab.org.uk/2018/12/long-term-outcomes-does-it-make-a-difference-if-you-r-school-has-a-sixth-form/>

Finding

It is reasonable to suppose that the school a young person attends will have an impact on their destination after key stages 4 and 5.

Indeed, our analysis shows that even after considering average attainment and disadvantage levels, pupils at schools with sixth forms are more likely to progress to a sixth form after KS4 compared to their peers at schools without sixth forms.

Source

<https://www.mimeconsulting.co.uk/schools-with-sixth-forms-does-it-matter/>

Finding:

Transition is a time of change between classes, year groups and settings. Research evidence that attends transition is largely focused on the move from primary to secondary. However, principles can be learned for other potentially vulnerable transition points. Several studies have shown a dip in attainment coinciding with transition. Reasons cited include:

- *lack of curriculum continuity and difficulties adapting to academic challenges;*
- *lack of familiarity with school systems, routines and expectations; and*
- *issues with developing healthy peer networks.*

Source:

https://d2tic4wvo1iusb.cloudfront.net/production/documents/news/Transition_tool.pdf?v=1707275272

(This looks at transition generally, but the challenges will be true of school > college transition too)

Finding:

We find that living in an area with no sixth form college has no overall effect on levels of post-16 participation, but it does affect the types of courses that students study. There are significantly lower percentages of pupils studying at least 2 level qualifications (73.5% versus 75.5%), at least level 3 qualifications (59.9% versus 63.0% and at least level 3 academic qualifications (40.0 versus 43.2%). The largest impacts are for those in the middle prior attainment group who are much less likely to study for 3 A levels.

Source

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a80a3a240f0b62302694aa7/SMC_social_and_ethnic_inequalities_in_post_16_report.pdf

6. The Proposal

Durrington Multi Academy Trust and the governors at Durrington High School propose to create a sixth form at Durrington High School for September 2025 (current Y10), which is currently an 11-16 school. Our school, our students and their families regularly express their disappointment about not being able to complete their post-16 provision at Durrington. This was validated by the survey responses, discussed in section 1. As a consequence of this, they have to travel longer distances than they are used to, to attend a post 16-provider.

We will create a thriving and successful, traditional academic sixth form that will have a published admission number of 200 students in Year 12 and 13 (400 in total). Our sixth form will provide:

- Academic excellence as a result of high quality and evidence informed teaching.
- Superb pastoral care and support.
- A sense of community as a result of the strong relationships that already exist.

As a result, our students will be more successful academically, than they would have, had they attended another college or school.

In shaping our proposed Key Stage 5 curriculum, we have consulted fully with our current prospective first cohort of students (Y10), whilst building on the success of our existing Key Stage 4 curriculum. This has led us to an offer of 27 courses. The exact subjects offered can only be confirmed once student selections have been made.

Our proposed offer would be:

- Art (A Level)
- Biology (A Level)
- Chemistry (A Level)
- Physics (A Level)
- Computer science (A Level)
- Drama (A Level)
- Dance (A Level)
- Economics (A Level)
- English Literature (A Level)
- French (A Level)
- Geography (A Level)
- Health & Social Care (L3 Vocational)
- History (A Level)
- Law (A Level)
- Maths (A Level)
- Further Maths (A Level)
- Music (A Level)
- Performing Arts (A Level)
- Politics (A Level)
- Psychology (A Level)

- Sociology (A Level)
- Spanish (A Level)
- Graphics (A Level)
- Photography (A Level)
- Business (A Level)
- Science (L3 Vocational)
- Sport (A Level and L3 Vocational)

As can be seen, the curriculum will consist mainly of A levels and a small number of level 3 vocational qualifications. The cost of running specialist vocational qualifications, the lack of specialist equipment and staffing prevents this from being a viable option at Durrington. We will however, explore T Levels and alternatives if level 3 BTECs are disbanded.

Students at the Durrington Sixth Form will be expected to study 3 or 4 A Levels of Level 3 equivalents. Each A Level or equivalent will be taught with 5 hours of contact time (5 x 60 minute lessons) a week. In addition to this, students will be expected to complete 5 hours of independent study per subject per fortnight.

All students will also be assigned a Sixth Form Tutor, who they will meet with regularly. Being a part of a tutor group and the wrap-around pastoral care that provides has always been an integral part of our success at Durrington. It will continue to be a strength of our sixth form. Students will also have the opportunity to benefit from completing an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

There will also be a rich programme of enrichment activities including careers support, preparation for higher education including Oxbridge and Russell Group applications, sports and performing arts.

Sixth form students will not be required to wear school uniform. Their whole sixth form experience will be enhanced by activities such as work experience, charity events, Duke of Edinburgh, mentoring younger students and social events such as a Winter/Summer Ball.

Staffing

Based on this curriculum model, a staffing analysis has been completed to establish the additional staffing required to deliver the sixth form curriculum. Courses will require at least 15 students to run, although there may need to be some flexibility and offsetting by more popular courses.

- Year 1
 - 6 Additional teachers required
 - Assistant Headteacher - Head of Sixth Form required
 - Sixth Form Administrator required
- Year 2
 - 3 Additional teachers required
 - Deputy Leader of Sixth Form required

The school budget is currently in a healthy position. Pupil funding for a sixth form of 400 students will cover these additional staffing costs.

As the proposed opening date for the sixth form is not until September 2025, there is plenty of time for us to complete this recruitment.

Admissions

Our entry policy will be broad and inclusive, with the objective of ensuring all students have the opportunity to realise their academic potential.. The entry criteria and thresholds will be the same for external and internal applicants. All students will be expected to achieve at least a grade 4 in both English and maths and a minimum of a grade 6 in the subject they are hoping to study at A Level (grade 5 when it comes to vocational courses).

To support this we will have a comprehensive interview and enrollment process that will support equality of opportunity for all.

As with other points of entry to schools, highest priority in oversubscription criteria for sixth form places will be given to Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children who meet the academic entry criteria.

We will support our ethos of inclusivity by ensuring that any student who is eligible for a sixth form bursary, will be fully assisted with this and any barriers to success are removed.

7. Impact

What will be the impact on educational standards - pre and post 16?

- Durrington High School regularly achieves above national averages at GCSE. The same level of high quality teaching that results in these outcomes will be applied in the sixth form, meaning that post 16 outcomes will be similarly high.
- By reducing the travelling time to their post 16 provision, students will be able to spend more time on their learning. Time spent on independent study is a key determinant to success in post 16 studies.
- Durrington has a strong track record of success when it comes to pastoral care; this supports the health and mental well-being of our students. This enables them to thrive. This will be a key feature of our sixth form provision too. Having a sixth form of 400 compared to an FE college of several thousand would enable us to know and support every student to reach their full potential. This is particularly important in light of the ever increasing mental health crisis that exists with many young people.

What will be the impact on other schools in Worthing?

- Greater choice when it comes to post 16 provision.
- Reduction in travel time for a significant number of students across Worthing (who don't attend Durrington).
- The only other school that will have a sixth form in Worthing will be St Oscar Romero. Geographically, we won't be in competition with each other. Between us, we will be enhancing the choice of post-16 provision in Worthing.

What will be the impact on other post 16 institutions?

- This will be minimal. The government projections confirm that post-16 student numbers will continue to increase over the next 8 years. In light of this, large, existing FE providers are unlikely to be affected by our sixth form.
- Our offer will be mostly A levels. There will still be a need for a broad offer of vocational and other courses across the town, that we won't be able to offer. We will work in partnership with local vocational providers such as GB Met and continue to actively support students wishing to pursue a solely vocational pathway in accessing this via local providers.
- There will also be students who wish to study A levels post 16 that we are not able to offer as part of the post 16 provision at Durrington. Again we will support these students in accessing this post-16 provision at other providers who are able to offer these courses.

What will be the impact on the local community?

- Our parents and students will benefit financially by having to spend less on travel to and from post 16 provision each day.
- Having a sixth form in the heart of the community reduces the stress and anxiety for parents and students.

“the opportunity to continue with their education and give them greater opportunities within the school they have become comfortable and confident in. It would take away any unsettling and unnecessary pressures of having to readjust to yet another school environment.” DHS Parent, January 2024

8. Consultation and Decision Making Process

Central to the consultation process is the input of students, parents and the local authority. We have already consulted extensively with some of the parties in the creation of this proposal and would seek to collect further evidence before a submission to the DFE.

Timescale

STAGE	OUTLINE	PARTICIPANTS	TIMESCALE
STAGE 1	Publication of consultation documentation [statutory proposal/notice]	Parents/Carers including the wider community Students/Staff Governing Body/MAT Schools and other Other Relevant Stakeholders West Sussex CC	Completed by the end of March 2024
STAGE 2	Review and Tier 1 Application	Local Authority and relevant parties DFE	April-May 2024
STAGE 3	Tier 1 Assessment and Decision	DFE Decision/Approval by Regions Group - trust and local authority informed	June/July 2024
STAGE 4	Implementation Provision of Information/ Enrolment process.	Parents/Students/Staff for Sept 2025 Y12 Cohort	Sept 2024 - Sept 2025

Consultation Process - How to Share your views

Having read this document please use this electronic form to share your thoughts on our proposal:

<https://forms.gle/gdZiya3qa5Ceh5ud7>



If you require a paper copy of the form, please contact Aggie Gemel - agemel@durring.com