

A consultation on Technical Level Qualifications in Stoke on Trent

The City of Stoke on Trent Sixth Form College is seeking your views as part of an application for significant change to the Pupil Admission Number (PAN). Please read this prospectus and provide your feedback using the methods at the end of the prospectus.

Why?

Within the city there are a number of negative statistics for educational attainment including; progression to university (21 of 35 districts are in the lowest quartile), completion of university courses (HESA data 2021) and achievement of a NVQ4 or above (half the national average). The City of Stoke on Trent Sixth Form College is an early adopter of the new T Level qualifications and view this transition to technical qualifications as a mechanism to support the educational achievement of young people in the city. The T Level qualifications will appeal to the 50% of students who have not previously studied the Level 3 academic courses offered by the College and School Sixth Forms.

The combination of hands on, work based learning, and academic study will appeal to many students who have not previously attended a Sixth Form. The T Level transition route for students who haven't gained GCSE English and Maths at school will further enhance the progression routes for young people into skilled employment, further training and higher education. This outstanding technical qualification isn't available at any other post-16 provider in the city, and to take advantage of the opportunity the Sixth Form College needs to be able to increase the capacity of the site.

In 2020 the college opened its Digital Centre to accommodate the new Digital T Level provision and increase the number Foundation Degree students. The Digital Centre will continue to deliver the educational needs of the city without disrupting other providers.

There is a significant demographic bulge; within the city there is an increase of 17% in the number of Year 12 students from 2020 to 2024, which will add approximately 510 learners (ONS and school census). In a typical year the college would enrol approximately half of the level 3 learners. In the wider Staffordshire region there is an increase of 10% during this period. There is further long term growth after 2024 although the increase is more stable. The college is now functionally full following growth that matched the demographic change in recent years. To meet future demand for places and the changing technical education provision (T Levels) we will need to increase the capacity of the building.

What?

The college is proposing to switch a number of BTEC courses into the new T Levels. The new courses require work placed learning environments, with a larger floor space, and therefore the college is proposing an extension to the college building that will accommodate these new courses and will increase the capacity of students by approximately 10%.

The college will work with other providers in the city to ensure that there is an increase in curriculum choice for students. The college is the only provider of level 3 technical qualifications (T Levels) in the city region and therefore the growth in T Levels should not disrupt the current provision in the FE college or school sixth forms. The college share of the market will not increase - the extension will accommodate the growing student demographic and students who are not currently continuing to Level 3 technical qualifications.

How?

The three storey extension into a storage area will house specialist work based learning accommodation for Healthcare Science and Science courses. The movement of these teams into the extension will allow the re-configuration of existing accommodation to support the growth of the Digital courses, particularly Games Design. This accommodation will increase the PAN of the college by 250 students or 13%.



Unemployment Doubled during Covid to 8%, double the national average.



Our vocational offer is not strong enough with need for much better alignment with the skills that local employers require.



Only 22.5% of people have a qualification of NVQ4 or above.



Worst in the region for life expectancy and most health indicators.



To have one of the best technical education and skills offers in the country, properly aligned to needs of growth

Consultation to increase the PAN.

The consultation period opened in the week beginning 14th June and close on Friday 16th July.

We will endeavour to receive feedback from key stakeholder groups, in particular;

- Local Authority.
- LEP and chambers of Commerce representing local and regional employers.
- Higher education providers.
- Colleges
- 11-16 high schools.
- 11-18 schools with a sixth form.
- Parents of high school students.

Please provide your feedback by completing [this survey](#). Further face to face feedback events will be provided for stakeholders if covid restrictions and risk assessments allow this to be achieved during the consultation period. If you would value a telephone conversation with member of staff please contact [Amy Johnson](#) the principal's PA at the sixth form college.

Further information about Technical Qualifications can be found [here](#). There is a presentation to the SASCAL group of head teachers in the June Business Meeting on the development of T levels. This presentation may be shared with interested parties on request.