

Proposal to Develop a Sixth Form



Sir William Robertson High School

20th July 2011



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY

Contact Details

This proposal has been published by the Governing Body of Sir William Robertson High School, Main Road, Welbourn, Lincoln, LN5 0PA to develop a Sixth Form on the school site. The school is currently an 11-16 Foundation School and specialist Language College. The school is a mixed comprehensive in terms of its intake.

Implementation

The proposal is to open a Sixth Form from 1st September 2012. It is proposed that the Sixth Form will provide post-16 learning for students predominantly from Sir William Robertson High School but with a PAN (Planned Admission Number) of 20 for students wishing to transfer from other institutions. The Sixth Form will accommodate up to 200 students, but the Governing Body is aware that this figure will probably not be reached until September 2015.

Consultation

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposal were complied with (in line with the current DFE Guidance: *Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School by Enlargement or Adding a Sixth Form [A Guide for Local Authorities and Governing Bodies]*).

Consultation originally began on 10th June 2011 with a letter sent to all parents of children attending Sir William Robertson High School. Interested parties were also informed (see Appendix A for a list of persons and/or parties consulted).

During the consultation period a public meeting was held on 20th June 2011 at Sir William Robertson High School. This meeting was an opportunity for those having an interest in this proposal to be able to gather information, ask questions and get involved in the debate. All parents/carers and other interested parties were given the opportunity to respond as part of the consultation process by 8th July 2011.

Evidence of the consultation conducted is included within the appendices:

- a) A list of persons and/or parties who were consulted can be found in Appendix A
- b) Notes of the public consultation meeting (in the form of questions and answers) can be found in Appendix B
- c) The views of the persons consulted are summarised in Appendices C and D
- d) Copies of the letter to notify the commencement of the consultation process and the form to send in response are in Appendix E

Objectives

The objective of this proposal is to provide the opportunity for Sir William Robertson High School pupils to continue their post-16 studies at their school instead of having to transfer to other school Sixth Forms or FE Colleges.

Sir William Robertson High School is the largest mixed 11-16 school in Lincolnshire by some considerable margin. There is no other secondary school or college within a 10 mile driving distance of the school and this presents significant challenges to the vast majority of our pupils who are committed to accessing further education and training beyond the age of 16.

When Year 11 pupils leave Sir William Robertson High School at the age of 16, they are scattered across a huge geographical area. All are forced to make the difficult transition to post-16 courses in an unfamiliar environment in another school's Sixth Form or in an FE college without many of the strong social networks which have supported them during the previous five years and without the staff who are best placed to know their learning and development needs.

We know from talking to former pupils and their parents that this transition can be difficult and pupils often question whether they have made the right choice of course/institution during the first few terms. Inevitably some drop out and we believe that given our extensive knowledge of the pupils and our established relationships with their families, we would have a far better chance of maintaining their commitment to further learning if they could remain within our school.

The raising of the participation age to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015 provides a real impetus to the school's desire to open a Sixth Form from September 2012 so that our pupils will not be disadvantaged compared with pupils from 11-18 schools. As the Education Maintenance Allowance has now been closed to new applicants, and given the imperative to reduce transport costs for post-16 learning in Lincolnshire, a Sixth Form at Sir William Robertson would make economic sense in terms of reducing the distances travelled by our pupils to access post-16 learning.

What are the advantages of this proposal?

The Sixth Form will build on the well-established academic credentials of the school. Sir William Robertson High School was the third highest achieving non-selective school in Lincolnshire in 2010 when measured against the English Baccalaureate standard (considerably exceeding both the county and the national average). As the Education White Paper makes clear, 'We must have high expectations for all young people, ensuring that they continue their education to age 18 and beyond and are supported to achieve to the highest standards.' The school has an extremely strong track record in terms of delivering a broad range of academic subjects at GCSE.

Sir William Robertson High School has a history of working extremely effectively with learners with Special Education Needs up to the age of 16 and the potential to extend this expertise into 16-19 learning. Of our 36 statemented students, a significant number are potential level 3 learners post-16 who have medical conditions such as autism, epilepsy, hearing impairment or learning difficulties such as dyslexia. Many of these learners have indicated their desire to remain at the school to study courses in our proposed Sixth Form. The school is already fully compliant with DDA legislation so this would not require any additional capital funding.

The school has recently benefited from significant capital investment from the County Council to extend and enhance facilities for 14-19 provision. A new Media Suite and adjoining teaching space was opened in April 2011. These resources are already benefiting the school's 14-16 learners and would be a valuable state of the art resource for future 16-19 learners in the school's Sixth Form.

As there is a distinct falling roll within the primary sector in North Kesteven (in excess of 1400 learners in each year group in the district from Year 7 to Year 11, but with an average of only 1181 learners in each year group from Year 6 down to Reception), we believe we can create the necessary additional teaching space for our Sixth Form by a small reduction in our PAN and by making more efficient use of our existing rooming within school. When combined with the additional teaching space provided within our new Media suite, this significantly reduces the need for further capital investment.

Current School Information

There are currently 866 pupils on roll at Sir William Robertson High School – see breakdown by year group below:

Year Group	Number on Roll (<i>June 2011</i>)
7	173
8	170
9	184
10	173
11	166

The Sixth Form proposal is for a 200 place Sixth Form. This figure is based upon detailed research conducted with our Key Stage 4 pupils regarding the number who would wish to access Sixth Form learning on our site. It also reflects the fact that in excess of three-quarters of our pupils achieved 5 or more A*-C grades (145 learners in 2010) which would be the benchmark of eligibility for entry into the Sixth Form.

If we compare our proposed Sixth Form to other North Kesteven District non-selective schools with similar levels of pupil attainment, 67.9% of pupils from North Kesteven School, 52.9% of Robert Pattinson pupils and 59% of Branston pupils enter Sixth Form (source: *Destinations 2010*). On the basis of our current number on roll in Year 10 (the first year group which we would hope to benefit from the Sixth Form), if only 50% of learners were to stay-on, this would represent a Year 12 of 87 learners.

However, we are aware that the Sixth Form would take time to establish its identity and we would move towards our maximum capacity of 200 learners over a four year period. Targets have been established within the school's Three Year Development Plan for a Year 12 intake which rises over time – 60 learners in 2012, 80 learners in 2013, 100 learners in 2014, 100 learners in 2015.

	5+ A*-C (incl Eng & Maths)	5+ A*-C
2010	55%	76%
2009	49%	70%
2008	50%	68%
2007	42%	56%

Impact on the Community

The school is mindful of the impact that opening its own Sixth Form may have upon other local post-16 providers. However, as only 35 of our pupils entered the Sixth Forms of other schools in 2010 (spread across a large number of schools in two counties) the impact on any individual school Sixth Form will be minimal.

A more significant impact will be felt by the FE sector which was accessed by 154 of our former pupils in 2010. Most of these pupils chose to enter either Lincoln College or Grantham College. However, as the Sir William Robertson Sixth Form offer will be clearly focused on academic A Level courses supplemented by carefully chosen BTEC options rather than upon occupational learning, we believe that pupils wishing to pursue more applied courses will continue to go to college. As Grantham College has in excess of one thousand full-time 16-19 learners (and more than two hundred

part-time learners) and Lincoln College has more than three thousand full-time 16-19 learners (and in excess of three hundred part-time learners), the loss of Sir William Robertson students would not provide a significantly detrimental effect on either provider.

In terms of the numbers who started purely A Level-based programmes at colleges in September 2010, this was 21 learners at Lincoln College and 17 learners at Grantham College. A further cohort of learners accessed BTEC courses in Performing Arts and Sport with both colleges and these are programmes which the school would seek to offer alongside its A Level provision (Level 3 BTEC Subsidiary Diploma).

All of our Sixth Form students will be engaged in full-time programmes of study and will remain on site during the school day. Private study periods will take place either in the library, Sixth Form Common Room or ICT suite.

Travel

The vast majority of pupils who attend Sir William Robertson High School travel by bus (86.6%). As a result there should be little increase in traffic caused by the development of the Sixth Form. The school expects that post-16 learners would travel on the existing school bus services and service buses on the established routes which drop-off and collect pupils on the school bus park. The 2009-10 School Travel Health Check Report rated the school as being 'Green' (on a Red/Amber/Green rating scale) in its most recent transport review.

A Sixth Form at Sir William Robertson will remove the need for many pupils who live in the Cliff Villages and surrounding local communities to make lengthy journeys to other school sixth forms or to colleges in Grantham, Newark and Lincoln. This would support Lincolnshire County Council's post-16 transport policy in reducing the costs (both financial and environmental) created by transporting learners considerable distances to access learning which could be provided effectively at a more local level.

Special Educational Needs

Pupils with Special Educational Needs make very good progress within the school and Sir William Robertson employs the only Advanced Skills Teacher for Special Educational Needs in the local authority. She leads a team of highly effective and experienced teaching assistants who support learning across the curriculum. Indeed, the impact of the SEN support in school was highlighted in the most recent OFSTED report which states, 'Students with special education needs/or disabilities and vulnerable students receive highly effective support. Teaching assistants are a very valued strength of the school and they effectively support individuals and small groups of students and help them to make good progress.'

As a result of the school's commitment to inclusivity and expertise developed over a considerable period of time, we currently educate 36 Statemented pupils. In 2010 Statemented pupils were highlighted within the school's Raise Online report as being significantly positive in terms of their Average Total Points Score and their Average Capped Total Points Score. The school has developed particular expertise in catering for the needs of high-functioning autistic learners.

What Will Happen Now?

Having reviewed all of the feedback collected through the formal consultation process, the Governing Body has agreed to move to the next stage in the process which is to publish a Statutory Notice in September 2011 to expand the school by adding a Sixth Form. This will contain the information specified in The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended). The Statutory Notice will be published in a local newspaper and also posted at the main entrance to the school and at a number of conspicuous places served by the school.

The Chair of Governors has written to Lincolnshire County Council (letter of 8th July 2011) addressing the three specific points they raised during the consultation process.

A full copy of the complete proposal will be sent within one week of the date of publication to Lincolnshire County Council. In addition, within one week of the receipt of the request, a full copy of the complete proposal will be sent to any person who requests a copy.

The Governing Body will also send to the Secretary of State (i.e. to SOCU, DFE, Mowden Hall, Darlington, DL3 9BG or via e-mail to schoolorganisation@education.gsi.gov.uk) within a week of publication:

- A complete copy of the proposal, excluding all documentation relating to the consultation; and
- A copy of the statutory notice that appeared in the local newspaper, showing the date of publication

Once proposals are published there follows a statutory representation period during which any comments on the proposals can be made. These must be sent to Lincolnshire County Council. Any person can make representations, which can be objections as well as expressions of support for the proposals. The representation period is the final opportunity for people and organisations to express their views about the proposals and ensure that they will be taken into account by the decision maker.

The representation period for statutory notices for the addition of a sixth form is prescribed as 4 weeks.

Decisions on expansion will be taken by Lincolnshire County Council. If the local authority fails to decide proposals within 2 months of the end of the representation period, the local authority must forward proposals and any received representations to the schools adjudicator for decision.

Appendix A: List of Interested Parties

Portfolio holder for Children’s Services, Lincolnshire County Council
County Councillor – Bassingham Rural
Assistant Director for Children’s Services, Lincolnshire County Council
North Kesteven District Council
Clerk to Welbourn Parish Council
Clerk to Leadenham Parish Council (neighbouring parish)
Corporate Director: Children Families and Cultural Services, Nottinghamshire County Council
MP for Sleaford & North Hykeham
MP for Grantham & Stamford
MP for Newark
MEP for the East Midlands
Regional Director for YPLA East Midlands
Trade Union Representing staff at Sir William Robertson High School - NASUWT
Trade Union Representing staff at Sir William Robertson High School - ATL
Trade Union Representing staff at Sir William Robertson High School - NUT
Trade Union Representing staff at Sir William Robertson High School - ASCL
Current pupils at Sir William Robertson High School
Parents/carers of current pupils at Sir William Robertson High School
Teachers and Support staff at Sir William Robertson High School
Headteacher of neighbouring secondary school - Branston Community Academy
Headteacher of neighbouring secondary school - Carre's Grammar School
Headteacher of neighbouring secondary school - Kesteven & Grantham Girls School
Headteacher of neighbouring secondary school - Kesteven & Sleaford High School
Headteacher of neighbouring secondary school - Lincoln Castle Academy
Headteacher of neighbouring secondary school - Magnus School
Headteacher of neighbouring secondary school - North Kesteven School
Headteacher of neighbouring secondary school - Robert Pattinson School
Headteacher of neighbouring secondary school - St George's Academy
Headteacher of neighbouring secondary school - St Peter & St Paul Lincoln's Catholic High School
Headteacher of neighbouring secondary school - The Grove School
Headteacher of neighbouring secondary school - The King's School
Headteacher of neighbouring secondary school - The Minster School
Headteacher of neighbouring secondary school - The Priory Academy LSST
Headteacher of neighbouring secondary school - The Priory City of Lincoln Academy
Headteacher of neighbouring secondary school - The Priory Ruskin Academy
Headteacher of neighbouring secondary school - Toot Hill School
Headteacher of neighbouring secondary school - Tuxford School
Headteacher of neighbouring secondary school - Walton Girls High School
Governing Bodies of neighbouring secondary schools as above
Parents/Carers of pupils at neighbouring secondary schools as above
Teachers and staff at neighbouring schools as above
Headteacher of local primary school - Ancaster C of E Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Barkston & Syston C of E Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Barnby Road Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Barrowby C of E Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Bassingham Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Belton Lane Community Primary
Headteacher of local primary school - Bishop Alexander Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Bowbridge Primary
Headteacher of local primary school - Bracebridge Heath St John's School
Headteacher of local primary school - Brant Broughton C of E & Methodist Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Caythorpe Primary School

Headteacher of local primary school - Chuter Ede Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Claypole C of E Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Coddington C of E Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Coleby C of E Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Cranwell Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Digby The Tedder Primary
Headteacher of local primary school - Eagle Community Primary
Headteacher of local primary school - Gonerby Hill Foot School
Headteacher of local primary school - Grantham Belmont Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Great Gonerby St Sebastian's Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Harlaxton C of E Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Hawtonville Junior School
Headteacher of local primary school - Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - John Blow Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - John Hunt Junior School
Headteacher of local primary school - Kirkby La-Thorpe School
Headteacher of local primary school - Leadenham C of E Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Leasingham St Andrew's Primary
Headteacher of local primary school - Long Bennington C of E Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Lovers Lane Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Manners Sutton Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Marston Thorold's Charity C of E School
Headteacher of local primary school - Muskham Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Navenby C of E Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Potterhanworth C of E Primary
Headteacher of local primary school - Rauceby School
Headteacher of local primary school - Ruskington Winchelsea Primary
Headteacher of local primary school - St Mary's Catholic Primary Grantham
Headteacher of local primary school - The National C of E Junior School
Headteacher of local primary school - The William Alvey C of E School
Headteacher of local primary school - Thorpe on the Hill St. Michaels School
Headteacher of local primary school - Waddington All Saints Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Waddington Redwood School
Headteacher of local primary school - Welbourn C of E Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Winthorpe Primary School
Headteacher of local primary school - Witham St Hughs Primary School
Governing Bodies of local primary schools as above
Parents/carers of pupils at local primary schools as above
Teachers and staff at neighbouring primary schools as above
Principal of local FE college – Lincoln College (incorporating Newark Sixth)
Principal of local FE college – Grantham College
Governing Boards of local colleges as above
Teachers and staff at local colleges as above
The Work Based Academy

Appendix B: Public Consultation Meeting Held at Sir William Robertson High School (20th June 2011)

Attendees: 34 (20 parents, 6 Parent Governors, 1 Teacher Governor, 1 Staff Governor, 1 Partnership Governor [Chair of Governors], 2 Teachers, 1 Support Staff, 1 pupil, 1 member of the public)

The headteacher opened the meeting by thanking those present for attending. He went on to explain that having a Sixth Form at SWRHS had been a long-held desire of the school. SWRHS had a Sixth Form in the 1980s but at that time could not sustain this on account of low pupil numbers. With our Year 7 intake being oversubscribed year on year, the situation today is very different. The headteacher took the attendees through his presentation and then invited questions from the floor, detailed as follows:

Where will you accommodate 200 extra pupils?

We anticipate an initial Year 12 intake of 100 pupils. This would enable us to use our existing rooming. Given the falling roll situation across the district (based on current numbers in North Kesteven Primary Schools), with 200 less coming through across the district's intake (from Year 6 down to Reception), there would naturally be a reduction in pupil numbers, affecting every school. We will be able to use this situation to our advantage in terms of our Sixth Form provision.

Will this fall in numbers ultimately impact on the numbers entering the Sixth Form?

On the basis of our most recent exam results – 76% of pupils achieved 5+ A*-C grades – all of these pupils would have been eligible to enter Sixth Form. Whilst inevitably the falling roll situation would affect the Sixth Form, we remain confident that we will be able to keep pupil numbers buoyant.

With recent new development work on site, including the new Apple Mac Suite, we believe that there are areas in the school that we can use more intensively. We will also continue to pursue any relevant pools of funding – such as Section 106 funding, where local property developers are required to contribute to the provision of additional services; or capital development loans available from the local authority. We very much see this as a long term investment for the pupils of the school.

What style of teaching will be adopted?

This would be an extension of the existing school provision. Pupils in the Sixth Form would continue to be taught by the teaching staff who had guided pupils through Years 7 – 11. We feel that this is important as they will know the pupils well, be able to cater for their needs and provide a natural continuation in their learning. This will also build upon the pastoral support and guidance in place. We feel this is a logical progression.

Does this prepare the children for Further Education?

Yes. They will study for A Levels. We will guide them through the next stage pastorally. Whilst we understand that the teaching and environment for a Sixth Form is very different, many of our staff already have A level teaching experience and we are confident that these skills are transferrable to our Sixth Form provision.

Is extra funding a reality for Sixth Form?

Yes. The way school funding is calculated, the school is effectively paid on a per pupil basis. We would seek to use any additional funding directly for pupils engaging in our post 16 learning programmes.

Surely you wouldn't want to take this away from the younger children?

No. This will have no detrimental effect on lower school. We believe having a vibrant Sixth Form will add value to the experience of other children in the school. We have undertaken research amongst the pupils – they want to stay at SWRHS. Results were clearly in favour of this. Parents want it too.

What subjects do you intend to offer?

In the survey we undertook of Years 10 and 11, we analysed data regarding what they want and asked the children what additional courses we should offer. They were overwhelmingly in favour of pursuing their current GCSE subjects at A Level, but they also asked for subjects like A Level Law, Psychology, Politics. Obviously provision of these subjects will depend upon group sizes and we will need to assess their viability – this is in common with practice in other schools. We could potentially take advantage of our Language College Status to run with smaller groups for language programmes of study, or smaller cohorts might be preferable for other subjects such as A Level Music.

I am still concerned about space in school. A Sixth Form needs extra resources, e.g. common room, library, ICT suite.

We have a well-equipped library and ICT suites, including the new Apple Mac suite. We also have a bank of laptops for pupil use, which enables us to be flexible with our rooming. We are aware that there are certain areas we are not using to full capacity, and feel we could address this by, for example, maximising use of our laboratory space by staggering the lunch hour.

We are looking at other options, but cannot wait for the local authority to respond on buildings issues. We want to try and operate largely with our existing staff and buildings for the time being.

As prospective parents in this, when will you know (if this is going ahead)?

We hope to know from the local authority by Christmas.

It will be a difficult time for the first intake, will they be guinea pigs?

We understand that this would be a 'leap of faith' on behalf of the parents and this is the nature of what we are embarking upon. We also believe that this will be an exciting opportunity for these children. An opportunity for them to continue to learn from staff they already know well and trust. Whilst at the same time, finding their own identity and shaping that of the Sixth Form itself. If children go elsewhere for Sixth Form study this can be unsettling. This was further impetus to make this venture succeed. We perceive this as a new challenge; we are all very excited about it. We know that when children go to school in other Sixth Forms that it can take time for them to settle, that they often have to break away from established friendships and support at SWRHS. The children have indicated that they would love to continue here. It will be ground breaking for the first year group (intake); they can make it their own. We believe that their voice must be very prominent in shaping

this, not just academically but in terms of the social side, charity work, etc. We are asking you to trust us with your child's post-16 education.

Is there a marked difference between GCSE and post-16 education provision?

Yes, but we believe we can make this a smooth transition for the children. They will have established support systems – staff who know them well, their own network of friends.

Will you have teachers teaching 'A' Levels who have never taught at this level before?

The school has evaluated this and an extensive list of key middle leaders with significant post-16 teaching experience was relayed to the meeting.

Will sufficient funding be available for teacher training?

Yes. We want to make sure that their knowledge is current.

I can see there are lots of positives, but what about the social side of things? The school is relatively small, set in the countryside, with lots of space and room. What about the Sixth Form's identity?

We fully appreciate all of this and we believe our rural location gives the school a number of strengths and bonuses. Our Sixth Form admission number of ultimately 200 pupils was average, when compared to schools of a similar size in our area. We are currently under utilising our existing space and are looking at further space we could use and dedicate to our Sixth Form provision. We fully understand that this is about moving our children on to independence.

What will happen with uniforms?

We need to consider this in line with developing the identity for the Sixth Form and governors, staff, parents and pupils would be involved in this.

On a positive note, with a new Sixth Form having low numbers, this means there will be small cohorts which are beneficial to the children.

Yes, although teaching will still be intensive, irrespective of class size. The teachers are excited about this. We hope that the Sixth Formers will be role models for the younger children, that this will encourage them to be more responsible. It is not just about pupils having academic study; it's about them learning to become learners. They will be expected to get on and manage themselves, as a role model for our youngsters. This is another step up for them, which will feed back into our whole school ethos.

Sixth Form is a very tangible way of expressing our belief in our children. It says that we believe that they have the potential to undertake Sixth Form study, particularly in a selective local authority. There is no ceiling on their achievement here. If they work hard, ASPIRE, they can succeed, go on to A Levels, university, the career of their choice.

Will you help them with progression to university?

Yes, absolutely. They will be given every support in navigating the UCAS system. From writing personal statements to forging links with local Higher Education institutions, visits to universities, etc.

Are there many schools (locally) without Sixth Forms?

We are the only school in the district without one. Only the minority of schools in the county do not have one. Most schools have gone this way – the Priory Ruskin Academy in Grantham for example.

It seems old fashioned not to have one (a Sixth Form).

Yes, especially when the focus is on developing children's skills' levels and in the light of the raising of the participation age. We believe our children are ideally placed to move into Sixth Form.

So what's the advantage in having a Sixth Form at SWRHS?

It would be a seamless progression in terms of moving from Key Stage 4 to Key Stage 5. For example, if a teacher is teaching a top set Year 11 group, they might be inclined to stretch that group to Year 12 level work. This is the knock-on effect, with benefits cascading lower down in the school.

Would 'A' Levels be taught on a full time timetable?

Generally in Year 12, pupils study four AS levels, plus General Studies. This tends to be taught on a 5 hours per subject per week basis. This is then scaled back to 3 'A' Levels plus General Studies in Year 13. They need the additional time for UCAS (for working students through this process), for enrichment activities through the tutorial programme, visiting speakers, etc. There will be a full time commitment, but this will include private study periods – they will be here on site full time.

College isn't necessarily like that though?

We accept that and maintain that we want to offer a traditional system. We want pupils to be here, contributing to the life of the school. This is about preparing them for the next stage in their lives.

There were no further questions from the floor.

Appendix C

Summary of Non-Pupil Responses in the Consultation Period

1. Basic Numbers (Total 374)
 - 362 For (96.8%)
 - 10 Against (2.7%)
 - 2 Neither for nor against (0.5%)

2. Spread of responses
 - 302 Parent/Carer
 - 54 Teacher/Schools Staff
 - 7 Governor
 - 0 Employer/Business
 - 4 Other
 - 7 Selected more than one option

3. Split of parental household responses as largest group of respondents
 - 295 For (97.7%)
 - 5 Against (1.7%)
 - 2 Neither for nor against (0.7%)

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding).

Comments re: courses to be offered

There were 8 responses that raised questions about the selection of courses that we would offer. 1 response raised the issue of the ability of our existing staff to teach to the required standard. 1 response raised the need to make a quick decision about the courses to be offered from September 2012 in order to apply for a place at their chosen FE location. 1 response raised the concern that pupils must be clear about the grades they need to achieve in order to be eligible. All responses raising these issues were in favour of the proposal.

Comments re: maintaining standards

There was 1 response that raised concern over maintaining the standards throughout ages 11 – 16 and not to focus solely on the new sixth form. The response which raised this issue was in favour of the proposal.

Comments re: facilities

There were 5 responses that raised questions about the facilities that will be available to the sixth form pupils. Facilities such as the canteen and whether the sixth form students would share facilities with the existing pupils or have their own. All responses raising these issues were in favour of the proposal.

Comments re: transport

There were 3 responses about the cost of transport to SWRHS. The responses which raised these issues were 1 in favour of the proposal and 2 neither for nor against.

Comments re: financial viability

2 responses were received that raised the issue of the initial low number of pupils enrolled, the range of subjects to be offered and therefore the need to subsidise the sixth form through the main school. The responses which raised these issues were against the proposal.

Comments re: current achievement

1 response received raised the issue of current achievements A* to C being only just above the national average and so should be improved '*to ensure positive progression to level 3 provision*'. The response which raised this issue was against the proposal.

Comments re: need for change

2 responses were received raising the need for pupils to move on at 16 to a more challenging environment. The responses which raised this issue were against the proposal.

Comments from Local Primary Schools

3 Primary Headteachers responded and all were in favour of the proposal. The Governing Body of one neighbouring primary school responded in favour of the proposal.

Comments from Secondary Schools

2 Grammar School headteachers (1 from Grantham and 1 from Sleaford) and an Academy Principal and Chair of Governors (Sleaford) were against the proposal on the basis that the numbers entering the proposed Sixth Form would not be financially viable. The Grantham headteacher stated that there is already over-capacity in post-16 provision in the Grantham area alongside broad provision in Sleaford.

The 4 responses submitted by these three schools/academies represented 40% of the total opposition to the Sixth Form proposal.

The Chief Executive of a chain of four academies in Lincoln and Grantham confirmed his support for our proposal.

Comments from Councils and MPs

The local parish council was strongly in favour of the Sixth Form proposal. A neighbouring parish council were against the proposal.

The local North Kesteven District Councillor (Cliff Villages Independent Councillor) and County Councillor for Branston and Navenby was in favour of the proposal.

Lincolnshire County Council provided qualified support for the proposal ‘providing that the proposal does not incur any significant capital costs.’

The MP for Newark acknowledged receipt of the proposal but expressed neither a view for nor against.

Nottinghamshire County Council produced a detailed response to the proposal and concluded that ‘the proposal is unlikely to have anything other than a negative impact on the two [Newark] schools, but the significance of that impact is difficult to predict.’

Appendix D: Summary of Pupil Responses in the Consultation Period

1. Basic Numbers (Total 603)

507	For (84.1%)
14	Against (2.3%)
82	Neither for nor against (13.6%)

Comments re: courses to be offered

17 responses received raised the question of the courses that will be offered (with 11 being specific to wanting A level PE and others specifically mentioning Music, Art, Performing Arts, English, Science and Geography). Of these responses 2 were neither for nor against, 2 were against and 13 being for the proposal.

Comments re: facilities

13 responses made reference to the issue of facilities that will be available to the sixth form and the need to build new facilities. 1 response referred to the current lack of space. Of these responses 3 were neither for nor against, 2 were against and 9 were for the proposal.

1 response raised the need to improve the sports facilities if we are to offer A Level PE. 2 responses raised the need for sixth formers to have access to lockers. 2 responses referred to the need to improve the current facilities for the existing students. 9 responses made reference to the sixth form (should it go ahead) having its own common room. All responses raising these were for the proposal.

Comments re: transport

3 responses questioned the availability of transport and its cost. Of these responses 2 were neither for nor against and 1 was for the proposal.

Comments re: desire to move on

5 responses reflected the students desire to move on to a new environment. 2 of these responses were neither for nor against and 3 were for the proposal.

Comments re: current achievement

1 response questioned the current level of grades being achieved. This response was against the proposal.

Comments re: overcrowding

3 responses raised the ability to manage with the increased student population. 2 reflected a preference for keeping the school smaller. These responses were 2 against and 1 for the proposal.

Comments re: non uniform policy

4 responses raised the need for the sixth form to have a non-uniform policy in place. These responses were all for the proposal.

Other Comments

1 response raised concerns about being used as guinea pigs and 1 response made reference to attending a more established further education site. Both responses were for the proposal.

Of the responses received by pupils, 161 mentioned the desire to stay in a familiar environment to complete their education with teachers and friends that they know and not having to go through the application process for another school/college.

Summary of all Responses

In total there were 977 responses (non-pupil and pupil) submitted regarding the Sixth Form Proposal. These break-down as follows:

For	869	(88.9%)
Against	24	(2.5%)
Neither For Nor Against	84	(8.6%)

Appendix E: Letter Regarding Formal Consultation

Formal Consultation on the Proposal to Open a Sixth Form at Sir William Robertson High School

Introduction

The Governing Body of Sir William Robertson High School is opening a period of formal consultation on the proposal to open a Sixth Form at the school from 1st September 2012. The consultation period will run from 10th June through to 8th July 2011.

The Sixth Form proposal has been developed in the light of significant parental and pupil demand. In the school's most recent survey of parental opinion, 94 % of parents who responded were in favour of establishing a Sixth Form at the school. Surveys of current Year 10 and 11 pupils indicate that 87% of Year 10 and 88% of Year 11 believe Sir William Robertson should have its own Sixth Form. When asked specifically whether they would attend such a Sixth Form, 78% of the Year 10 pupils and 71% of Year 11 expressed a clear interest.

The proposed number of Sixth Form places to be provided is 200. The PAN for pupils transferring from other establishments will be set at 20.

Why is this proposal being made?

Sir William Robertson High School is the largest mixed 11-16 school in Lincolnshire by some considerable margin. There is no other secondary school or college within a 10 mile driving distance of the school and this presents significant challenges to the vast majority of our pupils who are committed to accessing further education and training beyond the age of 16.

When Year 11 pupils leave Sir William Robertson High School at the age of 16, they are scattered across a huge geographical area. All are forced to make the difficult transition to post-16 courses in an unfamiliar environment in another school's Sixth Form or in an FE college without many of the strong social networks which have supported them during the previous five years and without the staff who are best placed to know their learning and development needs.

We know from talking to former pupils and their parents that this transition can be difficult and pupils often question whether they have made the right choice of course/institution during the first few terms. Inevitably some drop out and we believe that given our extensive knowledge of the pupils and our established relationships with their families, we would have a far better chance of maintaining their commitment to further learning if they could remain within our school.

The raising of the participation age to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015 provides a real impetus to the school's desire to open a Sixth Form from September 2012 so that our pupils will not be disadvantaged compared with pupils from 11-18 schools. As the Education Maintenance Allowance has now been closed to new applicants, and given the imperative to reduce transport costs for post-16 learning in Lincolnshire, a Sixth Form at Sir William Robertson would make economic sense in terms of reducing the distances travelled by our pupils to access post-16 learning.

What are the advantages of this proposal?

The Sixth Form will build on the well-established academic credentials of the school. Sir William Robertson High School was the third highest achieving non-selective school in Lincolnshire in 2010 when measured against the English Baccalaureate standard (considerably exceeding both the county and the national average). As the Education White Paper makes clear, ‘We must have high expectations for all young people, ensuring that they continue their education to age 18 and beyond and are supported to achieve to the highest standards.’ The school has an extremely strong track record in terms of delivering a broad range of academic subjects at GCSE.

Sir William Robertson High School has a history of working extremely effectively with learners with Special Education Needs up to the age of 16 and the potential to extend this expertise into 16-19 learning. Of our 36 statemented students, a significant number are potential level 3 learners post-16 who have medical conditions such as autism, epilepsy, hearing impairment or learning difficulties such as dyslexia. Many of these learners have indicated their desire to remain at the school to study courses in our proposed Sixth Form. The school is already fully compliant with DDA legislation so this would not require any additional capital funding.

The school has recently benefited from significant capital investment from the County Council to extend and enhance facilities for 14-19 provision. A new Media Suite and adjoining teaching space was opened in April 2011. These resources are already benefiting the school’s 14-16 learners and would be a valuable state of the art resource for future 16-19 learners in the school’s Sixth Form.

As there is a distinct falling roll within the primary sector in North Kesteven (in excess of 1400 learners in each year group in the district from Year 7 to Year 11, but with an average of only 1181 learners in each year group from Year 6 down to Reception), we believe we can create the necessary additional teaching space for our Sixth Form by a small reduction in our PAN and by making more efficient use of our existing rooming within school. When combined with the additional teaching space provided within our new Media suite, this significantly reduces the need for further capital investment.

What are the potential issues arising from this proposal?

The school is mindful of the impact that opening its own Sixth Form may have upon other local post-16 providers. However, as only 35 of our pupils entered the Sixth Forms of other schools in 2010 (spread across a large number of schools in two counties) the impact on any individual school Sixth Form will be minimal.

A more significant impact will be felt by the FE sector which was accessed by 154 of our former pupils in 2010. Most of these pupils chose to enter either Lincoln College or Grantham College. However, as the Sir William Robertson Sixth Form offer will be clearly focused on academic A Level courses rather than upon vocational/occupational learning, we believe that pupils wishing to pursue more applied courses will continue to go to college. As Grantham College has in excess of one thousand full-time 16-19 learners (and more than two hundred part-time learners) and Lincoln College has more than three thousand full-time 16-19 learners (and in excess of three hundred part-time learners), the loss of Sir William Robertson students would not provide a significantly detrimental effect on either provider.

What will happen now?

A public meeting led by the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors to discuss our proposal will be held on Monday 20th June 2011 in the School Hall at 7pm. This will provide an opportunity to allow all those who have an interest in the proposal to be able to gather information, ask questions and become involved in the process.

The questionnaire on the final page of this document can be completed and returned as indicated to the School Office. All responses will be collated and analysed and a report will be written on behalf of the Governing Body to be presented to Lincolnshire County Council in July 2011.

The outcome of the consultation will determine whether the Governing Body will move forward to publish statutory proposals for a new Sixth Form. If the decision is taken to proceed to the publication of a Statutory Notice, then a four week representation period will start in September 2011. All representations should be made to Lincolnshire County Council.

At the close of the Statutory Notice period, the local authority will decide proposals within two months or refer the matter to the Schools Adjudicator for a decision.

If this process results in a decision to open a Sixth Form at Sir William Robertson High School, then this will open on 1st September 2012.

Your views

The Governing Body of Sir William Robertson High School wants to know what you think about this proposal. It will consider any viable alternatives you may wish to propose.

You can make your views known in the following ways:

- a. By attending the public meeting when you will have the opportunity to hear more about the proposal and raise issues
- b. By completing and returning the attached reply slip before 8th July 2011
- c. By e-mailing the reply slip or comments to enquiries@swrhs.org
- d. By writing a letter to the Chair of Governors c/o Sir William Robertson High School, Main Road, Welbourn, Lincoln, LN5 0PA

Note: this information is also available on the school's website – www.swrhs.org

Sir William Robertson High School Sixth Form Proposal Reply Slip

Having read the proposal please indicate your view below by ticking the relevant box.

I am in favour of the proposal

I am against the proposal

I am neither for nor against the proposal

Additional comments:

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Name: E mail

Postal Address:

Parent/Carer Teacher/Schools staff Governor Employer/Business

Other (please specify)

Please return the completed form to the School Office, Sir William Robertson High School, Main Road, Welbourn, Lincoln, LN5 0PA by 8th July 2011.