



Wednesday 3rd December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Consultation on the Sixth Form at St Peter and St Paul's

I am writing to inform you that we will be entering a consultation on the closure of our Sixth Form. This decision has not been taken lightly, but persistently low student numbers and rising costs have made it increasingly difficult to sustain the broad and high-quality curriculum our students deserve.

Please be assured that supporting our current students and ensuring they can complete their studies successfully remains our highest priority throughout this process. You will be fully involved in the consultation, and we value your input as we consider the best way forward.

The table below shows the numbers of pupils entering the Sixth Form over the last 6 years.

Year	Year 12	% number of students accessing Y12 from Y11	Year 13	Total numbers in the Sixth Form
2025-26	23	21%	30	53
2024-25	31	28%	27	58
2023-24	32	29%	32	64
2022-23	22	20%	33	55
2021-22	24	21%	36	60
2020-21	28	25%	26	54

To make the Sixth Form sustainable, we would need the majority of students from Years 11 to transfer to the 6th form; the table above shows that over the past six years, the percentage number of students entering Year 12 is on average 24%.

The consultation survey will allow us to gather views from parents, students, governors and the wider community before any final decision is made. Our priority remains to ensure the best possible education for all students, and we value your input during this process.

I would like to reassure parent of students currently in Year 11 that I will be working with local post-16 providers who are able to offer a range of courses and pathways, including vocational qualifications, apprenticeships, and specialist subjects.

Our aim is to ensure every student has the best possible chance to succeed, and exploring these wider opportunities is an important part of this process. The options provided by alternative settings will give students leaving Year 11 access to a broad curriculum offer to match their individual interests and career aspirations.



What would this mean if the proposal to close the Sixth Form at St Peter and St Paul's goes ahead?

- The Sixth Form would close at the end of **July 2027**.
- All current Sixth Form students would be fully supported to complete their courses and achieve their qualifications i.e. the current Y12 would be unaffected and would continue into Year 13.
- Year 11 students wishing to join the Sixth Form in September 2026 could do so for Year 12, but there would be no Year 13 available for them in 2027.
- Year 11 students should carefully consider starting Year 12, as they may need to secure a place at another Sixth Form or college for Year 13 that matches their chosen courses and exam boards. As noted above, the school will work closely with local providers to support this process.

Please visit our webpage for further information about the proposal including access to our anonymous survey here: [Sixth Form Closure Consultation](#)

The consultation survey opens on Monday 8th December and closes on Friday 16th January 2026. Your input during this consultation will be invaluable in shaping the final decision.

Paper copies of the survey can be [downloaded here](#). Details of where to return this to are on the download.

I fully appreciate the commitment and hard work that has gone into building and sustaining our current Sixth Form provision. We recognise that this process will be disappointing for many in the community and we will work hard to ensure that our students are well supported as they come to the end of their time at St Peter and St Paul's. We are proud of the opportunities our Sixth Form has provided for our students over the years.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Hewerdine
Head Teacher