

Louth Academy Consultation

Tollbar Multi Academy Trust is consulting on a proposal to change the age range of Louth Academy from 11-18 to 11-16. This means there will be no published admission numbers into Louth Academy Year 12 from September 2019.

Tollbar Multi Academy Trust opened the new Louth Academy in September 2017 with the aim of having an academic sixth form to deliver A Level courses but the number of applications has been very limited. Since opening the new Academy, no sixth form students have been admitted.

Key Facts

- There are too few applicants of a high enough academic ability to provide the breadth of A Level courses students require.
- There are too few applicants to provide a financially viable sixth form.
- There are large high quality competitors who can provide an extensive selection of academic courses. These competitors are post 16 colleges – Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education and Franklin College - which provide free or heavily subsidised transport to potential students in the Louth Academy catchment area.
- Detailed analysis of the Louth area by Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education in July 2017 concluded that it was not financially viable to provide vocational courses at Louth Academy.
- There are currently no enrolled students in Year 12 or Year 13.
- The Department for Education recognises that sixth forms with fewer than 250 students cannot afford to offer a full range of courses.

Proposal

Louth Academy is planning on changing the age range of the Academy from 11 – 18 to 11 – 16 from September 2019. This decision has been made because there are too few academic applicants to provide an academic sixth form experience with the breadth of A Level courses that students require and for the sixth form to be financially viable.

There are currently no students in Year 12 or 13 and the Academy has not taken any applications for the sixth form to start in September 2019. In the admissions round for entry to the sixth form in September 2018 the Academy only received 35 applications, many of which would not have met the Academy's academic entry requirements. As a result, no students started their post 16 studies at the Academy in September 2018.

The Academy needs to consider the consequences on the whole institution when sixth form applications are so small. Subsidising an academic sixth form would result in less money for teaching Key Stage 3 and 4. If the age range is altered to 11-16 it will enable the Academy to ensure that funding is used to benefit the education of our current students in Key Stage 3 and 4.

History

Louth Academy was created in 2017 when the Department of Education approached Tollbar Multi Academy Trust to take over Monks' Dyke Tennyson College (OFSTED rating – Special Measures) and Cordeaux Academy (OFSTED rating – Requires Improvement). The two schools were merged to create one institution in September 2018. Prior to the merger there was a history of extremely low numbers of academic and vocational students in the sixth forms at both schools.

The number of students who completed their academic or vocational post 16 courses, who started their courses with the predecessor institutions, was 10 students at Monks' Dyke Tennyson College and 6 students at Cordeaux Academy which was a mix of both vocational and academic students. Cohorts of students with such low numbers are not financially viable and do not provide a good educational experience for post 16 students and would mean that the main school would need to subsidise the operation of the sixth form, which would have a detrimental impact on Key Stage 3 and 4 students.

Tollbar Multi Academy Trust opened the new Louth Academy with the aim of having an academic sixth form but the number of applications has been very limited. Since opening the new Academy, no sixth form students have been admitted.

Number of students in East Lindsey

Age	11	12	13	14	15
Number	1404	1410	1368	1319	1312

The current age profile of children in East Lindsey shows, that there is only a marginal increase in the number of children over the next 5 years, who could possibly access the academic sixth form. As there is spare capacity at other local sixth form centres, it is unlikely that Louth Academy would attract enough academic students to offer a wide range of academic subjects or ensure that the sixth form is financially viable without having a detrimental effect on the provision of education provided to students in Key Stage 3 and 4, due to the main school having to subsidise the sixth form.

Louth Academy Year 11 Destinations 2018

The majority of the first cohort of students to leave Louth Academy chose to continue their post-16 education with either Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education or Franklin College in Grimsby. The main driver for Louth Academy students making this decision is the large range of courses available at these centres and the free or heavily subsidised transport provided.

Known Destinations of Louth Academy Students 2018	
Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education	53%
Franklin College	37%
Apprenticeships or other sixth form providers	6%
Tollbar Academy	4%

Local provision

Louth Academy faces a high level of quality competition from existing post 16 providers – Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education and Franklin College - who offer a wide range of courses and resources which attract students from the Louth Academy catchment area.

The main competitors are two large sixth form centres who provide free or heavily subsidised transport to an extensive area of Lincolnshire, beyond the catchment area of the Academy in all directions. The Academy is based in a rural area and most students in the main school commute to the Academy by bus from the coastal and rural areas. Louth Academy is unable to provide this level of transport for a small cohort of academic sixth form students and therefore the Academy's students are attracted by the free or subsidised transport.

Post-16 provision available to students in the Louth area

1. Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education is rated as Outstanding by OFSTED and currently provides an extensive range of vocational course to the area. Tollbar Multi Academy Trust had discussions with Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education when the MAT took over the predecessor academies in September 2017 to provide vocational courses post 16 at Louth Academy. Unfortunately, after detailed analysis of the Louth area in July 2017 Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education came to the conclusion that it would not be viable to offer vocational courses on the Louth Academy sites, even with Tollbar Multi Academy Trust releasing Wolds College without cost to them. Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education provides free transport to their campus. They are located 14 miles north of Louth Academy. The approximate number of all learners at their last OFSTED inspection was 10,000. They currently offer buses from Mablethorpe (15 miles east of Louth Academy), Alford (16 miles south east of Louth Academy), Manby (6 miles south of Louth Academy) and Market Rasen (15 miles west of Louth Academy).
2. Franklin College in Grimsby is rated as Good by OFSTED and provides a wide range of A Level courses and is located 14 miles north of Louth Academy. The approximate number of learners at their last OFSTED inspection was 1,913. They provide buses from Brookenby (11 miles north west of Louth Academy), Louth, Alford (16 miles south east of Louth Academy) and Huttoft (16 miles east of Louth Academy).
3. King Edward VI Grammar School is rated as outstanding by OFSTED and offers A Level courses in the centre of Louth. It is located 1.3 miles from Louth Academy. King Edward VI Grammar School has a PAN of 150 students for entry into Year 12. The Grammar School currently has 96 students in Year 12 and 70 students in Year 13. The PAN for each year group is 130 students.
4. Tollbar Academy is rated as outstanding by OFSTED and provides a wide range of academic A Levels. Tollbar Academy provides students with free transport to their A Level centre from Louth. Tollbar Academy has a PAN of 200 students joining in Year 12. They currently have 91 in Year 12 and 159 in Year 13. Tollbar Academy is located 11.4 miles north of Louth Academy and provides free transport from Louth to their campus.

5. Skegness Academy has a PAN of 170 students for entry into Year 12 and currently has 52 students in Year 12 and 51 students in Year 13. They provide a wide range of courses both academic and vocational. The Academy is 24 miles south of Louth Academy.

The Consultation

The consultation will begin on Friday 15 March 2019 and will close on Friday 10 May 2019.

Interested parties are invited to give their views about this proposal in the following ways:

- **Post:** Louth Academy Consultation, Tollbar Multi Academy Trust, Station Road, New Waltham, Grimsby DN36 4RZ
- **Email:** consultation@tollbarmat.org
- **Individual Meetings:** If you have questions you would like to ask before submitting your views on the proposal, further consultation events will be held at the Academy on **Tuesday 23 April 2019 (3pm – 7pm)** and **Wednesday 24 April 2019 (3pm – 7pm)**. To help us to arrange these sessions please register that you wish to attend and book a timeslot by emailing consultation@tollbarmat.org or telephone 01472 310335.

Replies must be received by midnight on Friday 10 May 2019.

In the interests of economy, letters and emails cannot be acknowledged or responded to.

The next stage

All the views put forward during the consultation stage will be reported to the Regional Schools Commissioner. The views of the Multi Academy Trust will also be made clear in the report. The Regional Schools Commissioner will decide whether to progress to the next stage in the process.