

**Contact**

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For immediate release

Wednesday 30 January 2019

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF BURNHAM PARK E-ACT ACADEMY

After careful consideration, we are inviting academy stakeholders to take part in formal consultation on the future of Burnham Park E-ACT Academy.

Although no final decision has been made, given the falling number of pupils applying to the academy, and the significant financial difficulty that this brings, we are now consulting on closing the academy as a mainstream secondary school.

The academy is currently less than 30% full

At present, there are only 29 pupils in Year 7, compared with a total capacity in Year 7 for 160 pupils. This means that the year group is only 18% full. Across the whole academy there are only 235 pupils which means that Burnham Park is less than 30% full.

Since the 2012-13 academic year, the academy has experienced a 63% fall in pupil numbers.

Academic year	Pupil numbers (total)
2012-13	633
2013-14	666
2014-15	611
2015-16	544
2016-17	434
2017-18	322
2018-19	235

In an environment when education funding is already challenging, having a school with such a small number of pupils makes it very difficult to run. In this climate, the academy has struggled to deliver significant educational improvement and has been judged to require special measures by Ofsted.

An excellent alternative

Should the decision be made to close the academy, we would propose that the academy site remain open for current Year 11 pupils until September 2019 so that they can continue working for their GCSEs.

As a trust we are pleased to be able to provide guaranteed places at nearby Bourne End E-ACT Academy to every Burnham Park pupil in years 7-10. To ensure a smooth transition, we could provide pupils with free daily transportation, by mini bus or coach, to and from Bourne End E-ACT Academy, and could assist families with the costs associated with the purchase of new uniform.

Similarly, Burnham Park E-ACT Academy staff will have opportunities to stay in employment within the trust - a separate consultation will be carried out with staff.

How can academy stakeholders take part in the public consultation process?

Public consultation will formally open on Wednesday 30 January 2019 and will remain open for a full two months, closing on Friday 29 March 2019.

There are three ways to take part:

- Complete our online form by visiting the academy website: <https://burnhamparkacademy.e-act.org.uk/consult>
- Send us your observations, suggestions or any other comments by email to consult@e-act.org.uk
- Download a hardcopy of the form from the academy website and send it to us by post to E-ACT, Unit 9.2.1 The Leather Market, 11-13 Weston Street, London SE1 3ER

The consultation information pack

The consultation information pack is available to download from the academy website. This document outlines the impact of falling pupil numbers on the academy and how the trust will be supporting academy pupils and staff during the consultation process.

An opportunity to meet us

We are committed to involving everyone associated with Burnham Park E-ACT Academy in this consultation.

We will be chairing three public information sessions alongside representatives from Buckinghamshire County Council on the following dates:

- Wednesday 6 February 2019, 4.00pm-5.00pm, Burnham Park E-ACT Academy
- Tuesday 26 February 2019, 7.00pm-8.00pm, Burnham Community Library
- Tuesday 12 March 2019, 6.00pm-7.00pm, Burnham Park E-ACT Academy

Who have we informed so far?

We have addressed academy parents and staff at pre-consultation meetings. An extensive list of academy stakeholders including local primary and secondary schools, religious leaders and community and business groups have been written to directly.

We would like to consult with everyone associated with Burnham Park E-ACT Academy. Their views are very important to us and will be seriously considered before any final decision is made.

Post consultation

Once we have reviewed the feedback received, we will be releasing a post-consultation report in spring 2019. The report will include our response to public feedback as well as an outline of our final proposals. Please note that the final decision on academy closure will be made by the regional schools commissioner and the Secretary of State.

About E-ACT

E-ACT is a multi-academy trust responsible for 29 academies across the length and breadth of England. We are proud to be part of a community that includes over 18,000 pupils and 2,300 teaching and non-teaching professionals across the country.

For further information visit www.e-act.org.uk