



Friday 7 December 2018

CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF BURNHAM PARK E-ACT ACADEMY

After careful consideration and initial discussions with Buckinghamshire County Council, we will be inviting all academy stakeholders to take part in formal consultation on the future of Burnham Park E-ACT Academy.

This decision has not been taken lightly, but comes as a direct result of a significant fall in the number of pupils at the academy over a period of time. It is also the right time to consider how the academy site could be redeveloped into an exciting alternative for the young people of south Buckinghamshire.

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.

Continues

What does this mean for Burnham Park E-ACT Academy pupils and staff?

Given the rapidly falling number of pupils applying to the academy, it is clear that we must make a decision on how our pupils' education can be better supported, and how the academy can have a greater impact on the local community.

We must stress that no final decision on the future of Burnham Park E-ACT Academy will be made until after we have consulted with everyone associated with the academy. However, given the rapidly falling number of pupils applying to the academy, and the significant financial difficulty that this brings, academy closure must unfortunately be considered as an option.

Any decision to close the academy would not be taken lightly. All pupils and staff would be given sufficient amounts of time and support to prepare for such an eventuality, including opportunities to stay within the trust.

An exciting alternative for the young people of south Buckinghamshire

All of our proposals will be shared in greater detail at consultation. They will include plans for places of learning that equip young people with the skills that today's employers and universities are looking for. The options will include provisions for a wide-range of age groups, from a primary academy through to an industry linked vocational training provider.

How can academy stakeholders take part in the consultation process?

Consultation will begin in January 2019 when further information on how to take part will be issued through local communication channels. We have already written directly to academy parents and staff, and will be addressing pupils in assembly this week. Academy parents will also be invited to a pre-consultation information session in the new year.

The opinions of all those associated with the academy will be sought through consultation, including staff, parents, pupils and community members. Their views are very important to us and will be seriously considered before any final decision is made.

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