

Consultation

Admission arrangements for The Priory Academy LSST

Admissions from September 2020 and September 2021

Proposal to close Robert de Cheney Boarding House at The Priory Academy LSST, Lincoln

The Priory Federation of Academies Trust is consulting on a proposal to close Robert de Cheney Boarding House at The Priory Academy LSST, Cross O' Cliff Hill, Lincoln LN5 8PW.

The proposal being consulted on is the closure of the academy's Sixth Form Boarding House with immediate practical effect, that is, at the end of the current academic year on 31st August 2020. As a consequence, places would no longer be available to those boarding students who had been due to start Year 12 in September 2020, nor to those existing boarding students who had been due to start Year 13 in September 2020.

The academy will consider all comments received during the consultation period.

Reasons for the Proposal

1. Britain's exit from the EU.
Since September 2018 and the gradual confirmation of the timeline and plan for the UK to exit the EU, it has become apparent that no EU students will be eligible for boarding provision at LSST beyond July 2022. EU students make up the majority of the academy's maximum of 60 Sixth Form boarders. The loss of the EU market undermines the long-term sustainability of the Boarding House.
2. Coronavirus (Covid-19).
The Boarding House has been closed to all students since Tuesday 24th March 2020, following pandemic directives from central government. Term 3 fees have been returned; income for future years will no longer be forthcoming as UK and overseas families choose, or are directed, not to return to boarding provision. The virus has had a significant impact on boarding's financial reserves. This means that the academy's response, whilst considered, must be swift.
3. Viability.
As a combined consequence of the above two factors, the Boarding House is no longer financially or educationally sustainable next year or in the long term. Numbers would reduce to unsupportable levels in a setting where self-isolation and social distancing

measures would prevent the practical necessities of boarding life. In addition, under Government rules, the Boarding House must remain financially self-sufficient. This would no longer be possible post-Brexit and post-Covid; nor is the academy permitted to subsidise a boarding arm from its main-school funding, even if it wished to do so.

The Trust profoundly regrets having to propose such a course of action. Unfortunately, no other option addresses the scale of the difficulty facing the Boarding House. The academy is mindful, too, of the impact this proposal might have on the boarders currently on roll. However, senior leaders have had to weigh this concern carefully against the need to maintain financial stability at the academy as a whole. Support and guidance would be provided throughout to boarders, their families and the Boarding House staff should the Department for Education grant approval for the closure. In particular, all existing students in Year 12 would be contacted to discuss their education in Year 13; and all applicants offered a place from September 2020 would be contacted to discuss alternative arrangements.

The closure of the boarding house would result in the removal of the published admission number (PAN) for 30 boarding places in the Sixth Form. Because nearly all boarders come from abroad or outside the Lincoln area, it is not intended to increase the PAN for day places in the Sixth Form. The Sixth Form would therefore be smaller by the number of students in the boarding house, with negligible impact on admissions to other sixth forms in the area.

No other changes are proposed and all admissions to Years 7 to 11, and admissions to day places in Years 12 and 13, are not affected.

The proposed variations to the admission arrangements for The Priory Academy LSST can be seen on the same page as this consultation paper on our website. Alternatively, hard copies can be requested by writing to the email or postal address below.

Have your say

If you wish to comment on this proposal, please respond by **midnight on Sunday 28th June 2020**, either by emailing federation@prioryacademies.co.uk or by writing to Martin Mammatt, Clerk to the Trust, The Priory Federation of Academies, Cross O' Cliff Hill, Lincoln LN5 8PW.