



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

**LSST**

May 2020

To: Staff, Parents/Carers and community stakeholders

Dear Consultee

### **Consultation on a proposal to close Robert de Cheney Boarding House at The Priory Academy LSST**

The Priory Academy LSST 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 under consultation is the closure of the academy's Sixth Form Boarding House with immediate practical effect; that is, the end of the current academic year on 31<sup>st</sup> 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 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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

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The Priory Academy LSST is part of The Priory Federation of Academies Trust. For further information please contact:

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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 Priory Academy LSST 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.

**Have your say**

If you wish to comment on this proposal, please respond by **midnight on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020**, either by emailing [federation@prioryacademies.co.uk](mailto: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. If you would like to discuss the proposal further before responding, please contact Mr Nuttall, Head of Boarding at the academy, via 00 44 (0)1522 889977.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs J Hopkinson**  
Headteacher

