



3rd July 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

CLOSURE OF THE KINGSWAY ACADEMY – SEPTEMBER 2018

Following discussions between the Department of Education, the Northern Schools Trust and representatives of Wirral Council we are now in a position to give a formal update on the future of The Kingsway Academy.

The Secretary of State for Education has confirmed the decision to close The Kingsway Academy at the end of August 2018.

We have been working in partnership with the Department for Education and the Local Authority to agree a way forward, a series of timings, and allow us to support our families through this difficult time. We are very grateful for their commitment to working in the best interest of our families.

Whilst we realise this is distressing, it has been agreed that it is in the best interest of the students at The Kingsway Academy. The decision to close was taken as the Academy is financially unviable due to the very low numbers of students. The trends in population do not indicate that there will be a change in the number of students requiring a secondary school place in Wirral.

This will clearly lead to many questions for all of our families on how the process for closure will happen and affect their young people. The transition plan to closure has a number of important elements.

- **Current Year 6** students who were due to join the Academy in September 2017 will now be offered alternative places in local schools. There are more than sufficient available places in eight local secondary schools. The Local Authority are writing to those affected parents today, explaining the situation and attaching Preference Forms to be completed.
- **Current Year 11** students will continue on to their preferred sixth form provider as planned.
- **Current Year 12** students will continue on their courses and provision for Year 13.

If you are the parent of a child who will be in **Year 8 or 9 in September in 2017**, you will have a range of options to consider for the education of your child going forward.

Options:

- Some families have already taken the option to complete an In Year Transfer Form to move their child to a new school for September 2017, ahead of the closure. Parents are welcome to continue this process if they would like to. If you would like to pursue this option, you can find more information online at www.wirral.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-admissions
- Students who would like to move to a new local school in September 2018 will be supported to secure education places locally in other schools on the Wirral. We will work with the schools locally to coordinate opportunities to visit the alternative schools with available places, organise a series of transition days and manage your application so all details are in place for September 2018. Students will have time to spend at the new schools to get to know their new teachers.

- Students who would like to continue their education with the Northern Schools Trust will also be guaranteed their first choice at our schools in Liverpool with a programme of support.

If you are the parent of a child who will be in **Year 10 in September in 2017**, you will have a range of options to consider for the education of your child going forward.

Options:

- Some families have already taken the option to complete an In Year Transfer Form to move their child to a new school for September 2017. If you would like to pursue this option, you can find more information online at www.wirral.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-admissions
- Students who would like to remain at The Kingsway Academy this year and move to a new local school in September 2018 will be supported to secure the many surplus education places locally in other schools on the Wirral. We will work with the schools locally to coordinate opportunities to understand the range of GCSE options and exam boards, visit the alternative schools with available places, organise a series of transition days and manage the handover of coursework etc. so all details are in place for September 2018.
- Students who would like to continue their education with the Northern Schools Trust will also be guaranteed a place at our Liverpool Schools with a programme of support. We will ensure there is no change to GCSE options or exam board specifications, we will continue to employ Mr Rupert Stead as your head of year, and your child will remain within their current groups to minimise disruption.

If you are the parent of a child who will be in **Year 11 in September 2017**, you will have a range of options to consider for the education of your child going forward.

Options:

- Some families have already taken the option to complete an In Year Transfer Form to move their child to a new school for September 2017. ***We would strongly recommend that you do not make this move if at all possible to minimise the disruption to your child's learning during the busy final GCSE year.*** However, if you would like to pursue this option, you can find more information online at www.wirral.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-admissions
- Students who would like to complete their studies at The Kingsway Academy will be supported during the year (as is usual in Year 11) to complete a series of applications to post-16 providers and apprenticeship providers.
- Students who would like to continue their education with the Northern Schools Trust will also be guaranteed a sixth form place at our Liverpool Schools with a programme of support.

We will now host a series of meetings for parents, as well as meeting regularly with our new parents group to ensure all concerns are dealt with quickly and communicated fully. The first meeting **for all parents** will take place at **6pm, Tuesday 4th July** at The Kingsway Academy. This will allow us to give you more details on the support programme that is being put in place.

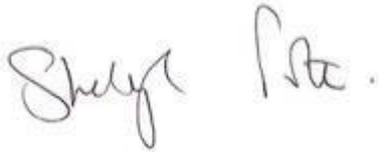
I would like to personally reassure parents and students that the school will continue as normal for next year. Education will take place exactly as planned, all extra-curricular programmes will run, trips, visit, sporting events will continue as normal.

I have been deeply proud of the staff team during this past difficult week and know we can rely on them to continue to deliver a professional quality education experience for every child during the period up until closure.

We are deeply upset that you have had to experience this period of uncertainty, miscommunication and rumour and thank all our families, staff and students for their support during this difficult time.

I will be available to take questions personally at the next parents' meeting, taking place at The Kingsway Academy on Tuesday 4th July at 6pm.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Shelagh Potter'.

Shelagh Potter
Principal