



Section 10 Consultation Report



TEL: 01793 732809
EMAIL: GWAADMISSIONS@NEWCOLLEGE.AC.UK
WEB: WWW.GWACADEMY.CO.UK

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Section 1: Background

1.1 Executive Summary

Great Western Academy is a proposed new secondary Academy for 11-18 year olds for Swindon. Under the Academies Act 2010 as part of the pre-opening requirements the Academy was required to carry out a six-week consultation of local stakeholders.

The consultation invited respondents to share their views on the vision and ethos of the school, the admission arrangements for the 2019-20 academic year and how they would like to see the school being used and become an integral part of the community. Views were also sought as to whether the Trust should enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education.

There were 59 responses received all of which were in support of the school. A range of feedback was given which has been responded to within this report. On the basis of the response to the consultation the Governors' Steering Group are agreed that they wish to enter in to a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State to open the school from September 2018. The consultation has reinforced the commitment of the Academy's Governors to engage with the community in order to ensure the Academy reflects the needs and ambitions of the whole community, in keeping with the GWA's vision and ethos.

1.2 Introduction

A successful bid was submitted by Great Western Academy, sponsored by New College, and the project entered pre-opening stage in March 2015. Based in Tadpole Garden Village in North Swindon, the Academy will provide new facilities for the surrounding area which has developed substantially within the last 15 years. The Academy is on schedule to open in September 2018 with 150 Year 7 students and up to 80 Year 12 students.

The sponsor New College is a general FE college offering courses and qualifications to over 3000 16 – 18 students with many leisure, business and higher education courses provided to adult students. The college also runs a pre-16 programme. In December 2017, OFSTED continued to rate New College as a "Good" provider.

Great Western Academy's approach is based on the belief that pupils should become enterprising people ready to embark on new ventures and to be independent thinkers and lifelong learners. Great Western Academy will be a key asset to the local community and will welcome parents and business to support their learning and provide facilities to use by the community.

Section 2: Consultation

2.1 Information provided to stakeholders

A consultation document was published on the Great Western Academy website with its own dedicated page (<http://www.gwacademy.co.uk/section10>). This document included information on the following aspects of the Academy:

- Welcome from Principal
- Summary of consultation process including advertisement of consultation dates and public events
- Vision and Ethos
- Great Western Academy Trustees
- Summary of draft Admission Arrangements for 2019/2020 academic year
- Details of the facilities available at the Academy.

A flyer (see [Appendix 1](#)) was circulated as indicated below. Care was taken to ensure that those who did not have access to the internet could request copies of the document and one request was received as such.

2.2 Consultation methods

Stakeholders were invited to read the consultation document and complete an short survey.

The survey included the following questions:

- Description/Category of the person completing the survey
- Do you agree with the Academy's vision and ethos?
- Do you agree with the Academy's Admissions arrangements for 2019/2020
- We want the Academy to be an important part of the local community. Are there any services you would like GWA to offer to the local community?
- Should the Great Western Academy Trust enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State in order to open the Academy?
- (Optional) - Stay in touch

A copy of the survey can be found in [Appendix 2](#)

The survey could be completed online (using Survey Monkey), on a PDF questionnaire or a hard copy could be requested.

The consultation was publicised in the following ways:

- Using the Great Western Academy website
- Email communication to stakeholders. [Appendix 3](#) lists the categories of persons to whom emails were sent
- 12,000 flyers were sent to North Swindon homes, including the Tadpole Garden Village development to advertise the consultation and drop in sessions.
- Advertised during open evenings held on 17th October and 16th November 2017
- Using social media (Facebook and Twitter)

2.3 Time-line of consultation process

The consultation took place between Tuesday 17th October and Monday 4th December, a period of 7 weeks including a week of half-term.

Section 3: Summary of responses to the consultation

3.1 Survey responses

How responses were made

Online	53
By email	1
By post	1
In person	4
Total	59

Q1. About you: Which of the following best describes you?

Respondents were asked to select one from the following

Parent/Carer	33
Member of staff or governor at local school	6
Elected member	1
Local resident	14
Local business owner	0
Local business employee	0
Local Authority employee	0
Other	5
Total	57

Of those who answered 'Other', these were

Wished to work at the school	1
Trust Member	1
Local Group	3

Q2. Do you agree with the Academy's vision and ethos?

Respondents were asked to select one from the following

Yes	55
No	0
Unsure	1
Left blank	3
Total	59

Comments and feedback given can be seen in Section 3.2 and [Appendix 4](#)

Q3. Do you agree with the Academy's admission arrangements for 2019/20

Respondents were asked to select one from the following

Yes	52
No	1
Unsure	6
Left Blank	0
Total	5

Comments and feedback given can be seen in Section 3.2 and [Appendix 4](#)

Q5. Should the Great Western Academy Trust enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education in order to open the Academy?

Respondents were asked to select one from the following

Yes	40
No	1
Unsure	17
Left blank	1
Total	59

Comments and feedback given can be seen in Section 3.2 and [Appendix 4](#)

Stay in touch

34 Respondents provided details to stay in touch and were added to the Academy's mailing list

3.2 Comments and feedback made during consultation and responses

This sections provides a summary and response to the comments made, the full comments received are shown in [Appendix 4](#).

Academy Vision and Ethos

The comments received were generally supportive of the vision and ethos we have promoted. There was support for the need for a focus on careers education and for the school to be fully inclusive. A specific comment were received with relation to students with ASD, another regarding students with attachment disorder, and third addressing the needs of students from disadvantaged backgrounds and minority groups.

Two comments showed concern about the enrichment period which is planned to run 3.10 to 4.30pm Mondays to Thursdays.

Response:

Given the responses received support the vision and ethos we have promoted we will continue to work hard to turn this into our everyday practice. In particular we will:

- *Ensure we develop the fully inclusive approach we have advertised, including working with parents, students, primary school professionals, Swindon Borough Council and external agencies to provide the best possible experience for students who come to GWA. This applies to all students.*
- *Continue to plan for a diverse, engaging and effective period of enrichment between 3.10pm and 4.30pm every day.*
- *Continue to plan for enterprise and entrepreneurship to sit at the centre of our work, so facilitating our comprehensive package of careers advice to help students be as ready as possible for the next stage of their development beyond GWA.*

In response to the specific comments received we will:

- *Continue to prepare carefully and publicise to parents our provision for students with ASD, and ensure that the economically disadvantaged are not educationally disadvantaged.*
- *Publicise carefully to parents the purpose of the longer school day and the advantages it offers. This includes the opportunity to complete homework in a supportive environment as well as take part in a comprehensive range of enrichment activities.*

Admission Arrangements 2019–20

Two comments were received for this question. One was supportive, the other suggested that prioritising siblings may lead to students who live near to the school not being able to attend GWA; we do not believe this to be the case as the number of places taken up by those with siblings will be small compared to the total cohort, meaning that those who live close to the school will still be able to attend. We also believe that offering places to siblings is supportive of the community in terms of allowing families to attend the same school should they choose to do so.

What services would you like to see GWA offer?

Many comments were received, the large majority regarding the availability to the community of a range of activities within the GWA building and so helping to generate a sense of community in this new area of Swindon. There was one comment about transport to the school, and one enquiring about the library facilities.

Response:

We will continue to promote GWA as a community resource. In particular:

- *We have already met with many potential hirers who cover a large proportion of the activities suggested in the responses, and we will actively seek out others.*
- *We will host an on-site event for potential hirers in February/March (as agreed with the construction company) so that they can see the facilities available. A process for applying to hire the facilities will then follow.*
- *We have also begun discussions with New College about adult education classes being hosted at GWA and we will now pursue this further.*
- *We are in discussions with Stagecoach about increasing the frequency at key times of the number 4 bus which already runs to the school and about the possibility of providing other bus routes.*
- *We will continue with plans already in place to employ a librarian, a fundamental role to help promote our reading scheme.*
- *We will continue to support and engage with local community events such as residents' meetings, fetes, and faith events, and we will continue to provide updates for the Tadpole Garden Village website and other similar forums.*

Should the Academy and the DfE enter into the funding agreement?

Four comments were received, one very brief. There were no written objections to the funding agreement being signed. The three longer comments received suggest that most of those who ticked 'unsure' may not have been clear about the nature of a funding agreement rather than unsupportive of GWA entering a funding agreement.

Response:

We will continue to work hard with the DfE to ensure that all the necessary work is completed in order for a funding agreement to be signed as soon as possible.

Section 4: Conclusion

The Governors' Steering Group of Great Western Academy are pleased with the responses made through the consultation. The majority of responses were from local residents and parents. Feedback giving support of the Academy has been strong indicated by:

95% were in agreement with the Vision and Ethos of the School

88% were in agreement with the Admission Arrangements for 2019/20

68% were in full agreement that a Funding Agreement should be entered into and only 1 respondent disagreed.

A strong response was also given concerning the need for the Academy to become a key part of the local community, in particular as a community space to various groups. This could be indicative that there is a perceived lack of community facilities within the North Swindon area, and Great Western Academy is very keen to help address this need where possible.

Great Western Academy would like to extend their gratitude to those who participated in the consultation in a number of ways and particular thanks is given to Justin Tomlinson who provided a suitable space for the two public events to be carried out.

The Governors' Steering Group are confident that Great Western Academy has carried out a full consultation to meet the requirements of Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010 and that the responses have been made appropriately. The school is well supported and looks forward to the completion of the Education Funding Agreement at the earliest possibility.



GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY

SECTION 10 STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Your chance to have your say....



TEL: 01795 752809
EMAIL: GWA.ADMISSIONS@NEWCOLLEGE.AC.UK
WEB: WWW.GWACADEMY.CO.UK

HAVE YOUR SAY

Great Western Academy will open in September 2018 in Tadpole Garden Village. Ahead of this time, we would value the views of local residents, staff and governors from local schools, nurseries and childcare providers, parents, community and faith groups and any other interested parties. This will help ensure that GWA develops to serve its students and the local community as effectively as possible.

Great Western Academy will provide much needed secondary school and sixth form places in the North Swindon area. The Academy's approach is based on the belief that pupils should become enterprising people ready to embark on new adventures full of boldness and initiative. Students will study business and enterprise as a key part of the curriculum.

Every student can expect to feel important and will be appropriately stretched and challenged. We will have high expectations of students and will encourage them to have high aspirations for their learning and their future.

HOW TO RESPOND

The consultation will run from 17th October 2017 to 4th December 2017.
We hope you can share your views during this period.

Please read our consultation document at www.gwacademy.co.uk/section10 or request a hard copy by calling 01795 752809.

You can then complete our online survey at the website above.

Alternatively, if you would prefer to give your views in person then we are holding drop-in sessions at the Customer Services Hub (MP Offices, Orbital Shopping Centre, SN25 4AN)

Thurs 9th November 2017 3.30-6pm

Wed 29th November 2017 3.30- 6pm

The more responses we gain, the more we can shape GWA to give the best possible provision.

OUTCOME

We will collate the consultation returns and summarise them together with the actions GWA will take in response. We will inform all contributors when this consultation report becomes available. This will also be shared with the Department for Education as required by section 10 of the Academies Act 2010.



Section 10 - Consultation Response

Our consultation document can be found at www.gwacademy.co.uk/section10. Thank you very much for completing this form. We welcome your views in order to provide the best school possible.

1. About you: Which of the following best describes you? (Please tick one)

Parent / Carer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of staff or governor at local school	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elected member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local resident	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local business owner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local business employee	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Authority employee	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. We want the Academy to be an important part of the local community. Are there any services you would like GWA to offer to the local community? (See pages 8-9) (Please use text box below)

2. Do you agree with the Academy's vision and ethos? (See pages 4-5) (Please tick one)

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unsure	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments / Feedback

5. Should the Great Western Academy Trust enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education in order to open the Academy? (Please tick one)

It is central government who are funding the building of this new school. In order for the school to open it will need to sign a contract called a Funding Agreement. (An example can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/514994/April2016_Mainstream_Single_v6.odt)

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unsure	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments / Feedback

3. Do you agree with the Academy's Admission Arrangements for 2019/20? (See page 7) (Please tick one)

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unsure	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments / Feedback

Stay in touch

If you would like to be kept informed of the progress of GWA and be added to our mailing list, please provide your contact details below.

Name:

Email Address:

Please return your completed form by 4th December 2017 to gwaadmissions@newcollege.ac.uk or by post to

Great Western Academy
c/o New College, Queens Drive, Swindon, SN3 1AH

Appendix 3: Consultees

The following stakeholders were contacted directly by email to advise them of the consultation

- All schools within the Swindon Borough Council area (including Primary, Secondary and Special Schools)
- Local Academy Trusts
- Schools in neighbouring boroughs near to the school (Bradon Forest, Royal Wootton Bassett Academy, St Mary's Purton and St Sampson's, Cricklade in Wiltshire and Farmors in Gloucestershire)
- All those who were on the GWA mailing list including parents who had attended Open Evenings in June and September
- School Admission Teams in Swindon, Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire
- Parish and Ward Councillors in the areas immediately surrounding the Academy
- MPs for North and South Swindon
- Representatives of Swindon Borough Council (Director of Education, Commissioner for Education Place Planning and Admission Manager, SENAT Manager, Head of Virtual School, Inclusion Manager)
- Swindon Parent Partnership

Appendix 4: Responses made to the Consultation

Vision and Ethos

- Yes, I do agree with the school's vision and ethos. In particular, I like the inclusive nature and the list of conditions that would need extra support. What would be the icing on the cake for me, and other parents like me, would be good for GWA to also become an Attachment Aware School so that the school and staff are aware of the impact that attachment difficulties can have for children in education.
- Yes, except for the longer school day. My child has short attention span and will struggle to concentrate for a long period of time.
- In principle I do agree but it seems to be no different to any other secondary school. It doesn't tell me how GWA is different, doesn't tell me why it is different, and doesn't really say how it will achieve its aims.
- Developing students for the future is a key element in ensuring that we deliver the best possible curriculum, having an ethos that is about the whole student rather than just results is a positive attribute of a school.
- Like most of the plans, but the longer school day puts me off. It prevents children engaging in extra curricular activities outside of school and is too much for younger children. This might be more appropriate for older children (GCSEs and upwards) but not for year 7.
- Yes, although I do think that there are some things missing: Additional Support - although this may not be an exhaustive list, there is no mention of Autistic Spectrum Disorders, or support for those who suffer with mental ill health - two very prevalent diagnoses. Two cohorts of learners that have proven with the right support, can have high achievement and retention rates. Enrichment - you say students will be expected to attend - will this be on a student by student basis? Tailored to their interests? It would not work "expecting" a student with ASD to attend a social enrichment activity that they have no interest in.
- Like the focus on career chances
- I would like to see something specifically about fostering an inclusive environment, recognising children come from a variety of backgrounds, including children who are economically disadvantaged, children who are from BME backgrounds, LGBT children etc.
- In my view, planners, teachers and councils at all levels must be able to obtain and understand the "needs and wants" of the world of work and the outside world in general, in order to achieve successful delivery of the service they aim to provide. This may not always be easy and often changes quite quickly with time - so needs reviews from time to time.

In my experience, as both a product and process development engineer, at different times, at a Swindon company, we ensured that at the beginning of a new project we really tried hard to get those "needs and wants" of the customers or those responsible for the "process" - usually the manufacturing operators of the manufacturing managers. I repeat - "Know the needs and wants of your customer".

Admission Arrangements

- Only children are potentially going to be deprived of a place if siblings take priority, if you live close by this defeats the object of being a community school
- I feel this is a key element by starting slowly and developing the school it will give you a standing within the community. Having sixth form will also make you as a school stand out from the other schools within the North Swindon area.

What services would you like to see?

- Access to the sports facilities for community clubs
Evening classes using the schools learning facilities
School integration with the community (helping out in the community) and selling the school as an asset to the local area, not a drain/burden
- I don't have any specific ideas, but would like to see the school go that extra mile to provide a sense of community in TGV, Oakhurst, etc. as this area is sadly lacking that focus.
- Room letting for local groups - guides etc.
Night classes for parents and other members of the community - languages, IT, etc.
Access to sports facilities for local clubs and groups - promoting life long activity
- Music for children in and out of school Sports fixtures and clubs which enable school can compete in local league
- A church, dance studio, football club and adult education and exam centre
- Hire sports facilities and possibly meeting rooms to the general public.
- I think that you have all areas covered. I think offering the inside studio and outside sports areas to the community after school hours is a wonderful thing and will enable groups who already exist and new groups to start utilising the spaces for the benefit of the community is brilliant idea.
- Opening the facilities to member of the public is a fantastic way of keeping the community together; you could open sporting facilities, run charity events (Coffee mornings), invite old generations in to participate in lessons/share experience.
- Bus to the school, as there are major roads to cross
- Zumba classes and student lead community projects
- Youth Football facilities that are at a reasonable rate
- Ability to rent sports pitches / hall space
- Different sports clubs not just boot camps, football, and martial arts. Clubs such as; Trampolining, Yoga, Art, British sign language, Textiles, Cooking, Drama
- Leisure courses for parents and carers
- Some form of community centre or sports facility would be welcome
- Help to local churches like Cornerstone Church who are trying to be a help to the community.
- To offer not only an good grounding education but to equip students with the skills necessary to succeed. To open up the schools facilities outside of school times to allow local groups to give the local community a varied choice of activities including the local community Cornerstone church to hold meetings and activities to help and support the area for both young and old.

- Adult evening classes
- Evening adult classes
- Creative after school classes for young people run by community members
- A place for adults to run/attend evening and weekend classes, e.g. I'd like to run a dance class or organise a local football tournament.
- Let/hire rooms out to local groups (e.g.. dancing/sport, Brownies/Girl Guides, etc).
- Sports facilities and meeting spaces for groups and clubs
- We are very keen for the Academy to make their facilities available for community use. I am keen to explore possibilities of having the students involved in community projects during their enrichment time.
- Strong links to local libraries, creative writing, inviting authors to visit the school. Will the school have a library and a full qualified librarian? This is absolutely essential for any decent school - all independent schools have them.
- Yes there is a lack of community provision so it is crucial that the School is open and available for community use. In particular there are no plots of land for Churches, due to the Council's policy of such uses sharing school buildings. The GWA plans are exciting and Cornerstone Church in particular are very keen to hire premises - not just for services on Sundays but also during the week for toddlers, children and youth work, and we are particularly excited about the opportunity to provide Social Enrichment courses or sessions as appropriate.
- I would like to see GWA make facilities available for a local church to use on a Sunday and for their mid-week community-focused activities, such as children's club, youth group and CAP money management or life skills courses. There is a major lack of appropriately-sized community facilities available to hire in the Tadpole Farm and surrounding areas. GWA can therefore make an important contribution to the local community by allowing a local church to use halls and rooms.
- Updates on progress, interest in local schools, communicate with parish councils, link magazine etc.
- Opportunity for local organisations to use the facilities.

Entering into a funding agreement

- No funding no school
- I have worked in a school that has funding agreements in one way this is an excellent way of keeping the facilities new/equipment refreshed but is also a tie on the school if you want to offer other elements such as opening it to the public/change areas
- If the funding agreement with the DFE is not signed, then how will the build be funded?
- Like most parents, I don't have time to wade through a 100+ page document to understand the implications of the Academy signing this contract, or what the alternative would be. It would be good to see some guidance or at least an executive summary. However, I would think very carefully about sending my child to a school where it appears there is no requirement to employ fully qualified teachers.

