

14/06/2023

Dear Employer Partner

With regret, I have to inform you that, following careful consideration, closure is proposed for Stephenson Studio School.

You may be aware that demand for places has been limited and in decline over a number of years (we have a school capacity of 400 but only 83 pupils on roll) which means we are now in a position where it is no longer financially viable or educationally sustainable to continue running the school.

The Board of Trustees and the Sponsor are committed to ensuring that our current students can conclude their education with us. Therefore, they have proposed that the school closes in August 2024, when current pupils complete their year 11 courses. The trust has been working with the Department for Education (DfE) to navigate the closure process as set out here: Closure of an academy by mutual agreement (publishing.service.gov.uk). Confirmation of the final decision is expected in autumn 2023 following completion of the listening period.

As part of the process, we run a listening period to enable you to share your views or questions about the proposed closure. The listening period will run from today 14/06/2023, for four weeks, until 12/07/2023. We continue to work closely with the local authority, DfE and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) through a listening period with all stakeholders, including; current students/parents, prospective students/parents, the Stephenson team of staff and union representatives.

Please click this <https://stephensonstudioschool.co.uk/closure/> to access our online form where you can raise questions pertinent to you.

There are also face-to-face opportunities throughout the listening period. Proposed dates are as follows and stakeholders will be sent a formal invitation in due course.

Stakeholder engagement – current staff – 19/06/2023 – 15.30

Stakeholder engagement – current year 10 students / parents – 21/06/2023 – 16.30

Stakeholder engagement – prospective year 10 students / parents – 22/06/2023 – 17.30

We will use the listening period to develop a series of Q&As to provide clarity, assurance and enable us to navigate this process in the best interests of all students.

Thank you for your contribution to our students' education. We sincerely hope that you can continue to support us with invaluable workplace opportunities during our final academic year.

Yours Faithfully,



Mr Keith Hobbs (Headteacher)