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1st March 2016

Dear Student

Knowsley Community College

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www.knowsleycollege.ac.uk

I am writing to you on behalf of the Governing Body.

As a Student, you are a key stakeholder in the College and its mission. I am writing to provide some information about changes in the Further Education Sector and the options it presents for you as a student. It is important that you read this letter and if possible share your views with the College via the web link. I will also be asking the current student Council to provide their feedback.

It is important for you to understand that whatever options are chosen as the way forward you will see very little or no change to your studies or future studies with the College.

In December 2015, Knowsley Community College commissioned a Structure and Prospects Appraisal.

The College commissioned an external company to undertake this work and the report was received by the Governing Body on the 12th February 2016. The report sets out a range of future options for the College.

The decision to commission a Structure and Prospects Appraisal was taken to ensure that the Governing Body had clarity with regard to all the options open to the College ahead of an Area Based Review – scheduled for the Liverpool City Region in April/ May 2016.

The Governing Body has accountability to ensure that the College continues to provide great education and training to our local community, access to resources to support all individuals to achieve, responsive and effective working relationships with all partners and employers and a culture of enterprise to ensure all our students are equipped for the changing world of work. The College also has an overarching responsibility to maintain strong finances in order to sustain and grow the opportunities we provide for our local community.

The Further Education Sector continues to experience year on year cuts to funding and although Knowsley Community College delivers high quality provision to the

communities we serve, it is clear that financial pressures will present ongoing challenges to the delivery of our mission.

In light of the outcomes of the Structure and Prospects Appraisal report and ongoing cuts to funding, the Governing Body has taken the decision to consult its stakeholders on the following options for the future of the College:

OPTION 1 Status quo (no change to the College's current structural arrangements) continuing to serve the local and wider communities.

OPTION 2 Merger with local College(s) to create a bigger more sustainable business unit more resilient to future financial challenges. The new organisation to continue to serve local and wider communities.

As a Student you are a key stakeholder in the College's future and I am, therefore, writing to seek your views on this matter. The consultation form can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.knowsleycollege.ac.uk/appraisal-questionnaire>

The closing date for response is Friday 18th March 2016.

This initial consultation is just the start of a process to review the future structure of the College. We will collate responses and provide a summary of the feedback received – this will be published on the College Website. I will also make sure that I have regular opportunities to brief staff directly as we progress. This initial consultation is the first stage of the process and the Governing Body will give consideration to all responses before determining next steps.

Please complete the questionnaire. It is vital that the college gathers your views on the options presented and that you help to shape the future of the College in Knowsley. If you have any questions please get in touch with me direct or contact your student representative. I will ensure we provide an opportunity for students to fully participate and will keep you informed as things progress.

Yours faithfully



Mark Flinn

Chair of Governors



Anne Pryer

Principal