



Liz Hayward Executive Principal
On Behalf of the Trust Board
Advance Trust
Beech Centre
Four Pools Lane
Evesham
WR11 1BN

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT REFERENCE NEWBRIDGE SHORT STAY SCHOOL

31st January 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Advance Trust consists of four schools, three special schools and Newbridge School which is a short stay school for young people who have been permanently excluded from their secondary school. We work with young people in Key Stages 3 and 4. The number of young people who return to mainstream provision following a stay with us has been reducing significantly over recent years and in the last two years we have only succeeded in returning two students to mainstream secondary, none since February 2018. This in reality means that we are not functioning as a "short stay school," as young people can arrive with us in year 7 and remain until year 11. We believe that it is not in the best interests of any young person to remain in such a provision long term, as the school is not appropriately resourced or equipped to work with young people for such a long time, many of whom desperately wish to have a second chance but are denied this, resulting in them giving up hope. This then in our view is limiting the potential of young people sent to us in KS3 who, with the right role models and supportive intervention within a mainstream school environment may be able to "turn it around" and work hard to achieve their full potential by the time they leave school to access higher or further education.

The governors of Newbridge and the Trust Board of Advance Trust are therefore consulting on plans to reduce the scope of the school to be accessible to KS4 students only. We recognise the value of early intervention and would prefer to work with only KS3 students to enable us to make a positive difference, but there is little or no evidence that these young people would be able to find a school to complete the secondary phase of their learning. We feel therefore that we have no choice but to limit the length of time young people are in Newbridge by taking only those with a maximum of two years left in secondary phase at the time of permanent exclusion.

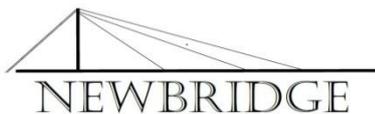
Newbridge is a school currently in special measures, and under unreasonable pressure from the LA to take students they do not know and about whom there is very little information. There currently exists a Service Level Agreement between the Trust and the LA, against which the LA have been unable to deliver. A meeting held in February 2018 with LA officers resulted in fair warning being given that unless exit strategies for young people to leave Newbridge were achieved we would not sign another SLA which replicated the one currently held. We submitted a document we would be prepared to sign, but there has been no communication about this from the LA since February 2018. In August 2018 the Chair of the Trust Board and Executive Principal of the Trust met with Councillor Marcus Hart. We alerted him to the issues at Newbridge and made it clear that reducing the scope of the school would be our only option if we were not given assurances that we could expect the LA to honour the SLA and work of the school and find mainstream placements for some of our students. There has been no response to this. The report produced following the Ofsted monitoring visit (September 2018) also recognised that the promises made by LA officers to support the school to achieve return to mainstream had not been upheld, this continues to be a feature of the monitoring reporting as of January 2019.

If you have a response to the consultation to limit Newbridge to KS4 aged students, and change the remit of the school from "short stay" to "Alternative Provision" please, respond via email or in writing to the address above, **by Friday 12th April 2019.**

Yours sincerely,

E Hayward

Liz Hayward
(Executive Principal)



Vale of Evesham School

a specialist school for cognition and learning - making inclusion in the community

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