



**Document:** Section 10 Report

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020

**Lead professional:** Rob Marsh – Principal Trinity Academy Cathedral

**Status:** Draft

## **1. Introduction**

The Free Schools programme will deliver a new free school in Barnsley, which the Trust will operate. The school will open in September 2021, so between June 2020 and the opening of the school a programme of work has been set out to deliver new free school.

The specific outcome of the programme is to provide a new free school in Barnsley that offers excellent education to pupil enabling them to reach their full potential.

## **2. The Trinity Academy Barnsley**

Trinity Academy Barnsley is a comprehensive 11-16 school located to the west of Barnsley centre, predominantly serving central and west Barnsley. It is part of the Trinity Multi-Academy Trust which is a trust based in Yorkshire, with schools in Halifax, Leeds and Barnsley. Our aim is to provide outstanding education which offers young people the opportunity to achieve academic excellence as well as a well-rounded experience which prepares them for a range of challenges in their future. The school has a broad and balanced curriculum with a particular focus on STEM subjects.

## **3. Consultation Methodology**

### **3.1 The Trust consulted with:**

There will many stakeholders who will have an interest in the consultation and the Trust intends to be inclusive and equitable in reaching these cohorts. The Trust consulted with, but not limited to:

- The Local Authority;
- Parents of young people in the areas – prospective parents;
- Young people in the area – current and prospective secondary students
- Local residents;
- Local primary schools;
- Local secondary schools;
- Local post-16 providers;
- Local business;
- Community groups;
- Faith groups.

### **3.2 The timing of the consultation:**

The timing is dependent upon when there is sufficient information available for stakeholders to understand what is being proposed, which at the time of starting the consultation there was.

The Trust consultation started on 15 June 2020 and concluded on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

As the consultation was conducted during the COVID pandemic, we extended the usual 6 week period to become 8 weeks to enable more time for us to reach the stakeholder groups and more time for them to respond.

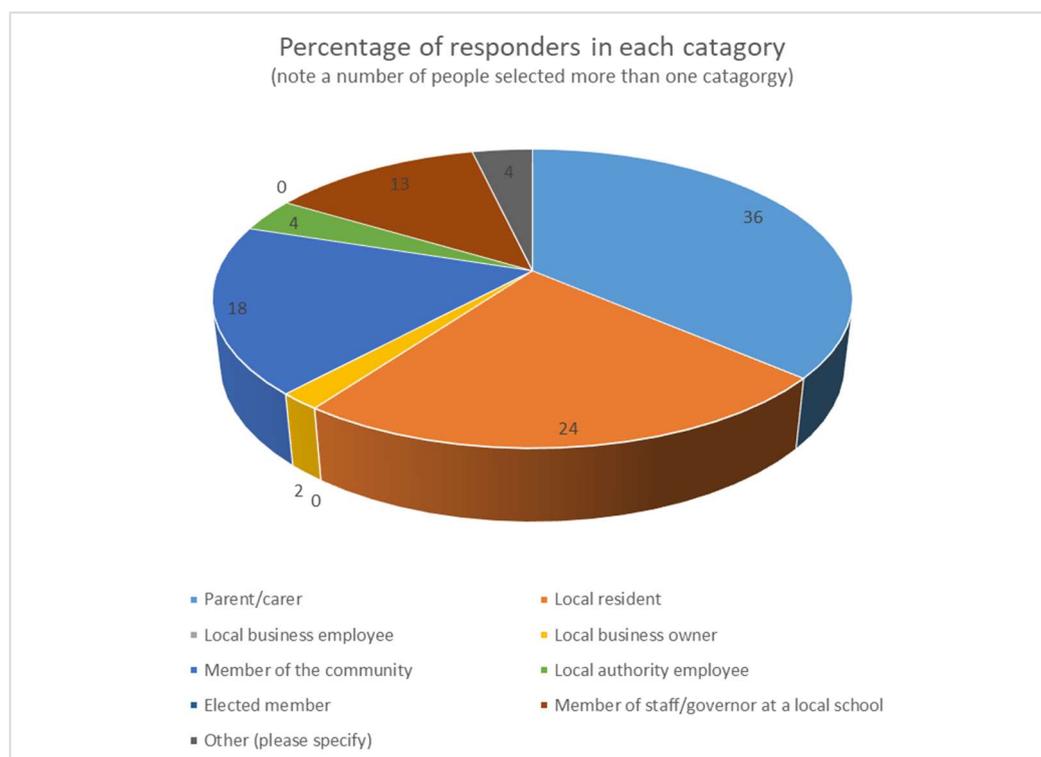
### 3.3 The mechanism of how the Trust consultation was done:

The Trust used a variety of mechanisms to reach the stakeholder groups, such as, but not limited to (Appendix A, B and C):

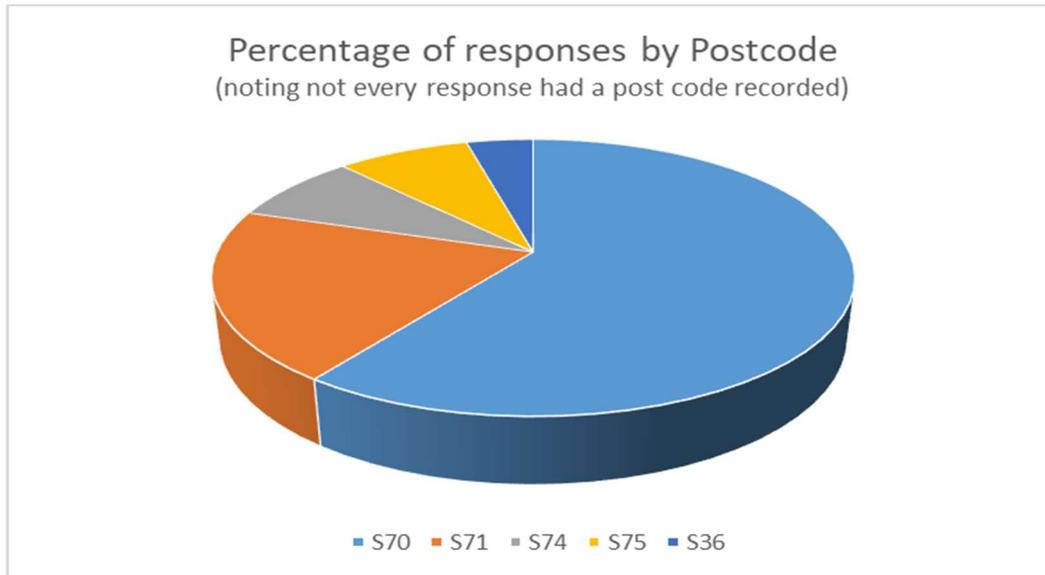
- The Academy website;
- Direct email for stakeholders who have a publicly available email address;
- Letters to stakeholders who do not have email address;
- Social media – Facebook and Twitter – point the consultation on the Academy website;
- Advertisement in local press;
- Two webinar events to allow face-to-face contact with stakeholders;
- Numerous phone calls with parents and others who expressed an interest – in the absence of face-to-face contact meetings, these were a method.

## 4. Completed Questionnaires and Data Validation

There were 42 completed questionnaires in total. These broke down into the following categories:



By postcode area:

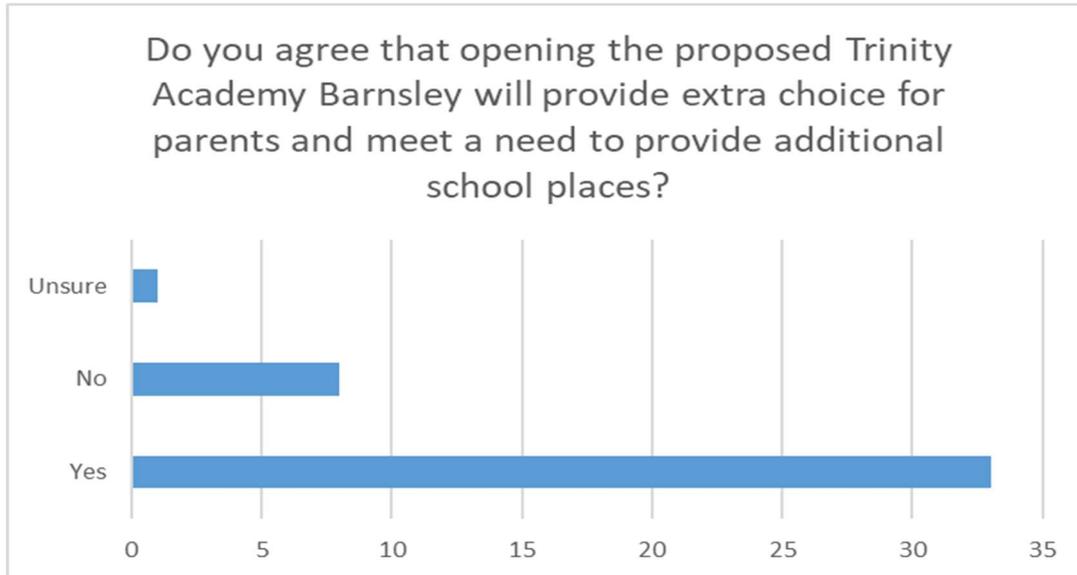


## 5. Quantitative Findings from the Consultation Survey Forms

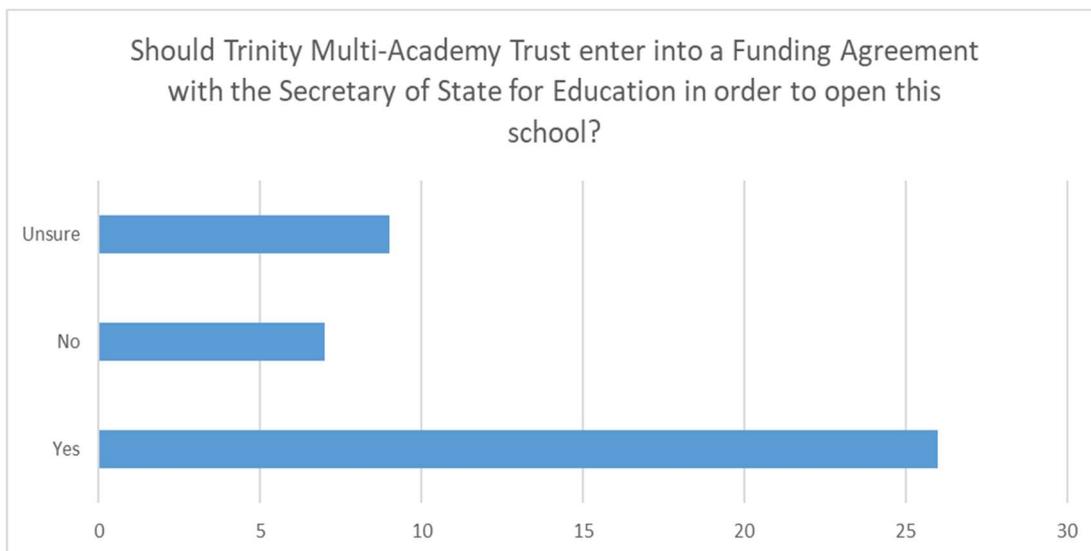
There were two key quantitative questions the Trust is required to seek the views upon from local stakeholders, these are:

- Do you agree that opening the proposed Trinity Academy Barnsley will provide extra choice for parents and meet a need to provide additional school places?
- Should Trinity Multi Academy Trust enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education in order to open this school?

The results of these two questions where part of the questionnaire sent out to many stakeholders and the results are summarised below.



The majority of the respondents were in favour of opening the proposed Trinity Academy Barnsley with 79% in favour, 19% not in favour and 2% unsure.



Again, the majority of respondents were in favour of the Trust entering into a funding agreement with the Secretary State for Education in order to open the school, with 62% in favour, 17% not in favour and with 21% unsure. Whilst there was more uncertainty recorded in the responses there is strong support for the school.

In addition to the above findings there were:

- 74% of responders in support of use of community space;
- 60% of responders in support of use of rooms and auditorium.

There were 9 other comments that will be incorporated into the qualitative findings below.

## 6. Qualitative Findings from the Stakeholder Event

The Trust also undertook qualitative analysis both from the comments provided from the questionnaire and also the webinars. The question below represents this important feedback along with the considered answers.

- a. What type of temporary buildings will be provided?

The temporary buildings will be provided by a Department for Education (DfE) approved and selected contractor with extensive experience delivering temporary educational solutions. The facilities will be brand new modules built specifically for this purpose and delivered and installed to site. The trust is currently working with the DfE and contractor to ensure the buildings meet the expectations for delivering the curriculum. The temporary buildings will include facilities such as Science Labs and Art classrooms.

- b. Will teachers be provided from the trust or recruited from elsewhere?

Our trust has a number of secondary schools already open and runs recruitment fayres each year. We also have our own Teacher Training programme run by Trinity Teaching School Alliance. As a result, we expect that new staff will be recruited to the trust for the new school. In addition, they will be supported by staff currently part of our trust to ensure they understand the systems and ways of working we expect within the trust. There is also a possibility that some staff currently within the trust will apply for the new roles and want to be part of the team delivering the new school. The Executive Principal that will oversee the school is already appointed and has been a senior leader in the trust for 10 years, leading a highly successful school in Wakefield.

- c. Are the plans available to see?

Not at this stage as the designs for permanent building is being designed now. The contractor, the DfE and the trust work closely to ensure that the new school will meet all expectations and regulations as well as meet the needs of the trust to deliver the ambitious curriculum. As some stage in this process the contractor will release more details and visuals of what the school will look like and these will be released. In the meantime, the trust staff are contactable and able to discuss the design process and their involvement and share images of other similar projects that have been delivered. This will give a good idea of the type of final build parents and students can expect. These details will be shared at promotional events for parents September and October.

- d. How many young people will there be when full to capacity?

The projected Pupil Admission Number is 900.

- e. The school is close to Horizon, will you be sharing facilities whilst the building work is taking place?

There are no plans to share facilities with Horizon although there are plans to share some sports facilities with other institutions whilst in temporary accommodation.

- f. Is there any guarantee that the build will be completed by 2023 or could it change?

The trust is working to that date with the DFE and everything is on track to be delivered on time currently.

- g. The level of aspiration in the community is amongst the lowest in the country. Disengagement from the community is massive. My other concern is around transport to schools. Can transport focus on children not being in the interchange on the way to or way home from school? This area is an area where drugs are accessed.

We will be working with the LA and contractor to establish a green travel plan for the school. This will include consideration of bus routes and safeguarding concerns.

We aim to ensure that students' routes to school are as safe as possible. In terms of aspirations in the area, we understand the local area and context and this was one of the features of the application. We have a high success rate with delivering excellent standards of education in challenging areas and intend to ensure this success is replicated, enhancing the aspiration for all students.

- h. School life is extremely important to my child. Part of education of the child is the peers around them and communication skills required. The Year 7s at TAB will be coming from Year 6 where they are the eldest pupils to TAB where they will continue to be the eldest until they leave. How will the development of Year 7 be compared to Year 6?

The new year 7 students will be the founding year group of the school. They will have high expectations and will be role models for future year groups. This model will allow us to nurture and support them in becoming ambassadors for the school. They will also benefit from our focus on them as the only year group in the first year. Additionally, we are working with local providers to ensure that they experience further education, higher education and business settings, and work with older students and people who can be role models to them.

- i. Will you be recruiting new staff or Trinity MAT staff?

A mixture, please see the response to question (b) above for more detail.

- j. Do you expect confusion with the name of Holy Trinity academy?

We feel that the two can exist without confusion. There are many other examples of where schools and business have similar names but can operate successfully in the same space or location. Being part of the Trinity Multi-Academy Trust is a key part of the school and so we would not want to lose that link and identity. That said we are considering the final name for the school once it opens and may make a change to this if it is in the best interests of the school and area.

## **7. Acknowledgements**

Firstly, the Trust would like to thank both the individuals and organisations who took the time to consider and respond to the questionnaire and also participated in the webinars. The Trust is grateful for the considered comments and critique, as it will help us shape the future of the Academy.

Specifically, the Trust would like to thank both individuals and organisation for their considered letters of support (Appendix D and E):

- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council;
- Barnsley College;
- Principal of Barnsley College – Yiannis Koursis;
- Saint Mary's Multi Academy Trust;
- Chief Executive Officer of Saint Mary's Multi Academy Trust – Mel Priestly.

## **8. Conclusions**

The Section 10 consultation has provided reassurance that there is strong support for the Trust to open the school and enter into a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education.

The Trust acknowledges there are concerns in regards to transportation and assurance that building works will be completed upon time, which both will be managed as part of the programme of work the Trust is undertaking with its partners.

## **9. Responding to the Findings**

As noted in the conclusion the Trust acknowledges all of the findings and will factor in the responses it has provided in section 6 of this document. Work will be undertaken on the green travel plan, which was core concern expressed by range of respondents and also ensure the building works are managed tightly in the programme of work to deliver the school opening on time.

## **10. Next Steps**

The core next steps will be to complete the programme of work to ensure the opening of the school in September 2021. The Trust as part of these works will factor in the concerns regarding transportation and building works, so these can be addressed and shared with the community.

## Appendices Appendix A – Promotion of the Statutory Consultation

The promotion of the statutory consultation was done by various methods as shown below.

Social Media:

- Facebook @TrinityAcadB;
- Twitter @TrinityAcadB;
- Instagram @trinityacadb.

Social media examples:



## Trinity Academy Barnsley – Section 10 Consultation Report



Looking forward to our first consultation webinar this morning! Don't forget to join us at 9am if you've booked a spot.  
Missed it? There's another on 10 July, bookings via email: [contactus@barnsley.trinitymat.org](mailto:contactus@barnsley.trinitymat.org)  
Find out more about the new school proposals and give your views.



8:23 am · 26 Jun 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

1 Retweet 2 Likes



22 June · [Public](#)

DON'T MISS our first information WEBINAR this Friday 26th June at 9.00am! Join us to find out more about the new school proposals and give your views. Next one 10th July. Book your place via email: [contactus@barnsley.trinitymat.org](mailto:contactus@barnsley.trinitymat.org)



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15 June · [Public](#)

We are delighted to report that Trinity MAT has been selected as preferred sponsor for a new free school in Barnsley.

We welcome your views on our proposed new secondary school for the area.

Read more and submit your opinion <https://barnsley.trinitymat.org> ...  
[See more](#)



[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#) 7

12 shares

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# Trinity Academy Barnsley – Section 10 Consultation Report



We aim to provide additional choice for high quality secondary [#education](#) places in the [#Barnsley](#) area through our new school. Tell us what you think [barnsley.trinitymat.org/consultation/](https://barnsley.trinitymat.org/consultation/)  
DON'T MISS our webinars on 26 June & 10 July at 9am!  
Book via email: [contactus@barnsley.trinitymat.org](mailto:contactus@barnsley.trinitymat.org)



3:38 pm · 25 Jun 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

2 Retweets 8 Likes



Press Release:

**Press release: Consultation for Planned New Secondary School Gets Underway**

Following a recent decision by Barnsley Council, Trinity Multi-Academy Trust has been selected as the sponsor for a proposed new free school, to be known as Trinity Academy Barnsley.

Having been identified as an area of need for additional secondary school places, the proposed site for the new school is located on Keresforth Close off Broadway in Barnsley. Under the proposals, the school will open with 240 places available for Year 7 students in September 2021.

A consultation period has begun to allow the local community the opportunity to give their views on the development of the new school. Feedback can be given online or by post using the questionnaire available from the web site set up to provide information on the project at <https://barnsley.trinitymat.org>.

Webinar events will also be taking place on 26<sup>th</sup> June and 10<sup>th</sup> July to enable interested parties to find out more about the proposals and share their opinions.

CEO of the Halifax-based Trinity Multi-Academy Trust, Michael Gosling said of the announcement, “As a trust we are delighted to have the potential opportunity to open a brand new academy in Leeds, offering local children an outstanding educational experience. Drawing from the success and expertise of organisations across our high performing MAT, we will ensure that children are supported both academically and pastorally to secure the brightest of futures.

Our secondary schools consistently achieve academic results which place them in the top 10% of highest performing schools in the country, and receive national and international recognition for the quality of their provision. This success will be replicated at Trinity Academy Leeds, where every young person will benefit from outstanding teaching and an inspirational curriculum.”

The consultation will run until Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020, the findings will be published online.

**Dated:** 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Contacts:**

Sarah Philp, Marketing Manager  
Trinity Multi-Academy Trust  
Tel: 07421 902189  
Email: [s.philp@trinitymat.org](mailto:s.philp@trinitymat.org)

**Notes for the Editor:**

**Trinity Multi-Academy Trust** [www.trinitymat.org](http://www.trinitymat.org)

Trinity Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) has numerous schools in Calderdale including the ‘outstanding’ Trinity Academy Halifax and Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge at secondary level, the Post-16 Trinity Sixth Form Academy, and Akroydon Primary Academy and St. Chad’s Primary School. In addition Cathedral Academy, in Wakefield, winner of TES Secondary School of the Year 2019. Also part of the MAT is Trinity Teaching School Alliance along with West Yorkshire Maths Hub and White Rose Maths.

**Appendix B – Statutory Consultation Questionnaire**

**CONSULTATION**



**Trinity Academy Barnsley**  
Section 10 Consultation  
June 2020



# CONSULTATION



## Welcome from the CEO

*Trinity MAT's ethos is a simple one – to ensure that young people in our care fulfil their potential. Everything we do is in pursuit of that one aim. Our foundations are strong, formed as they have been through a commitment to inclusive education, extremely high standards for all and not accepting that we can't. Indeed, we strongly believe that we can, whatever the challenge is.*

We are delighted to have the potential opportunity to open a brand new academy in Barnsley, offering local children an outstanding educational experience. Drawing from the success and expertise of organisations across our high performing MAT, we will ensure that children are supported both academically and pastorally to secure the brightest of futures. Each of our sister secondary schools consistently achieve academic results which place them in the **top 10% of highest performing schools in the country** and receive national and international recognition for the quality of their provision, such as the **World Class Schools Quality Mark** and the **TES School of the Year**.

This success will be replicated at **Trinity Academy Barnsley**, where every young person will benefit from outstanding teaching, meaningful pastoral care and a curriculum that offers academic challenge whilst fostering cultural capital.

**Michael Gosling**

**Chief Executive Officer, Trinity Multi-Academy Trust**



# CONSULTATION

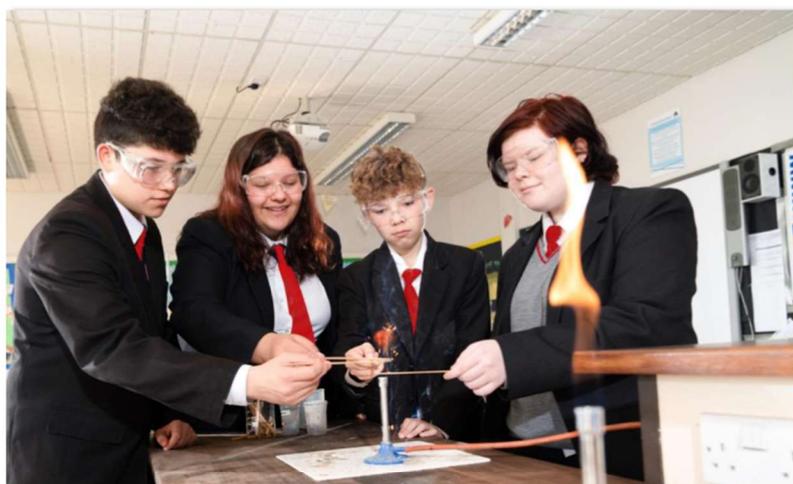
## Vision, Ethos and Values

Our new school will have a strong focus on the STEM subjects of Science, Maths and Technology. It will offer an ambitious and inspirational curriculum which will equip pupils for local employment as well as higher academic study. Our aim is to enable all students to achieve the standards of attainment, progress and positive attitudes to learning when they leave us at 16 that will allow them to access the next steps in education and the world of work.

In our academy the quality of teaching and learning will be paramount, aspiration and care for each individual student will be the norm, and student outcomes will be exceptionally high.

A caring and supportive Christian ethos and a strong framework for pastoral care are at the heart of the Trust's philosophy of education, everyday practice and aspirations for the formation of the children and young people in our care.

The Core Values of **Empathy**, **Honesty**, **Respect** and **Responsibility** will be part of the DNA of our new school, reflected in school policies and in its everyday life.



# CONSULTATION

## Curriculum and Pastoral Care

At Trinity Academy Barnsley we aim to offer a purposeful, academically rich curriculum which leads to a deep subject knowledge in a broad range of subjects. Our core values of honesty, empathy, respect and responsibility are integral to our day to day workings and ensure that students are aware of the basic moral codes of modern life in Britain and the wider world.

The broad and balanced curriculum offer ensures that the needs of all students are met, both inside and outside of the classroom and that they are given a variety of opportunities to expand on their cultural capital. We have the highest of standards for students academically and this, coupled with the emphasis placed on developing young people who are confident, resilient, work ready and culturally aware, ensures that students leave us with many opportunities open to them.

We aim to:

- Provide a varied curriculum offer to students which ensures deep understanding of individual subjects, leading to a rich body of knowledge.
- Ensure the best possible progress and highest academic achievement for all by tailoring the curriculum to individual needs, ensuring flexibility and a commitment to respond to change where necessary.
- Give students access to appropriate careers information, advice and guidance at all stages, and that opportunities are open to students through their academic achievement and experiences gained at TAB.
- Promote students' spiritual, moral and social understanding with a bespoke programme which responds to the needs of TAB students.

All members of staff at Trinity Multi-Academy Trust are committed to providing a learning environment, which will support the children and young people in our care. We will insist on very high standards and expectations of our students. The academy believes that all students have the capacity, and the right, to reach their full potential.

The safeguarding of young people and our pastoral care will be at the forefront of everyday practice, ensuring that all young people can flourish. We have vast experience of achieving success with young people from all backgrounds and providing a full package of support, including mental health and well-being, mentoring, life skills tuition and support from a multitude of outside agencies. All aspects play a key role in helping develop the whole person. Our belief is that no-one is left behind and we work together to support all in our school community.



# CONSULTATION

## Why Does Barnsley Need a New Secondary School?

Due to the increased population in Barnsley, particularly in young people of school age, there is a shortage of secondary school places which will last for the foreseeable future. The latest school capacity data was published in March 2020 and this shows clearly the lack of places and the need for a new secondary school in the Barnsley area. The proposal for this school was put forward over 18 months ago and our focus is now on delivering the school places as soon as we possibly can. The aim is that we will add to the provision in the area offering young people and their parents a first class, exciting alternative option for their education.



## The School Site

The proposed site for the new school is on Keresforth Close, off Broadway. The trust have been working with the Department for Education who lead on the identification of suitable school sites and acquiring the land for such projects.

As with any area there are only a small number of possibilities that are readily available for purchase and can accommodate such a project. The project will be subject to the normal planning application regulations and through this process access to site, traffic management and environment will all be carefully considered through a green travel plan.



# CONSULTATION

## Admissions

Trinity Academy Barnsley has an inclusive admissions policy, based on the Department for Education's model, also supported by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Trinity Academy Barnsley will have a Church of England designation and provide an excellent education for all which is rooted in Christian values. It will however, be fully inclusive and non-selective, welcoming pupils of all abilities, all faiths and no faith and from all backgrounds who live locally. This reflects the Trust's commitment to inclusiveness, serving the local community and providing a rich, inspiring and respectful education for all in a nurturing environment which reflects Christian values but is in no way restricted to those of faith.



Two of our current secondary academies (Trinity Academy Halifax and Cathedral Academy Wakefield) have very similar admissions and the cohorts attending are very diverse and inclusive. This will be the same at TAB. The policy, detailing how people can apply and how places will be allocated in the event of oversubscription can be found on our website <https://barnsley.trinitymat.org/>.

If you are interested in a Year 7 place at Trinity Academy Barnsley for September 2021, please visit our website <https://barnsley.trinitymat.org/> to register your interest.

Registering an interest will mean that you are updated with details of upcoming open events and any other important admissions information. Please note that registering your interest does not mean that you have applied for a place at TAB.



# CONSULTATION

## The Consultation

Thank you for taking the time to read this consultation information. We hope that you find it informative and can take the time to share your views with us.

We are required to meet our statutory obligation to consult under Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010 about our free school proposal. We would like to hear from the community in the coming weeks to help inform the Secretary of State for Education's decision on whether to enter into a Funding Agreement with Trinity Multi-Academy Trust.

We want to listen to your comments and act on any feedback to ensure our school is the best it can be and meets the needs of the community we serve. You can give us feedback in several ways:

- Visit our website at <https://barnsley.trinitymat.org/> and complete the online consultation questionnaire, or complete the questionnaire overleaf and post it to Cathedral Academy, Thornes Road, Wakefield, WF2 8QF.
- Book to attend one of the webinar events taking place on the dates below by e-mailing [contactus@barnsley.trinitymat.org](mailto:contactus@barnsley.trinitymat.org)
  - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 9.00am
  - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 9.00am

We will record all views that are shared with us during the formal consultation window which runs between **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020**. The results will be published on the TAB website.

If you are interested in applying for a school place or would like to hear more about how you can support us, please do get in touch.





## Appendix C – Letters Promoting the Statutory Consultation



15<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### TRINITY ACADEMY BARNSELEY – SECTION 10 CONSULTATION (15<sup>th</sup> June – 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020)

A proposed new free school to be known as Trinity Academy Barnsley is planned to open in September 2021. Due to the increased population in Barnsley, particularly in young people of school age, there is a shortage of secondary school places which will last for the foreseeable future. Our aim is to offer young people the provision of a first class, exciting alternative option for their education. The Academy will be part of Trinity Multi Academy Trust (MAT), a family of successful Yorkshire schools. It will also be inclusive, welcoming students of all abilities, all backgrounds and all faiths or none.

We are required to meet our statutory obligation to consult under Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010 about our free school proposal. We would like to hear your comments and act on any feedback to ensure our school is the best it can be and meets the needs of the community we serve.

A consultation period about the proposal is now underway. Please read the Consultation document attached and submit your views using the form on our website <https://barnsley.trinitymat.org/> or by printing the questionnaire at the end of the document and returning it to us by post to Cathedral Academy, Thornes Road, Wakefield, WF2 8QF.

We will record all views that are shared with us during the formal consultation window which runs between Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020. The results will be published on the Trinity Academy Barnsley website.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Marsh", followed by a small dot.

Rob Marsh  
Executive Principal

Shay Lane, Holmfild, Halifax, HX2 9TZ

tel: 01422 244890 fax: 01422 240033 email: [info@trinitymat.org](mailto:info@trinitymat.org) web: [www.trinitymat.org](http://www.trinitymat.org)

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## Appendix D – Letter of Support from Barnsley Metropolitan Council



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**People Directorate**  
**Education, Early Start and Prevention**  
**School Admissions**  
Nina Sleight

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Mr M Gosling (CEO)  
Trinity Multi Academy Trust  
Shay Lane  
Halifax HX2 9TZ

Date: 23 October 2018  
Enquiries: Nina Sleight/Beverley Sadler  
Direct Dial: 773506  
E-Mail: [ninasleight@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:ninasleight@barnsley.gov.uk)  
[beverleysadler@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:beverleysadler@barnsley.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Gosling

### **FREE SCHOOL APPLICATION**

The Authority has managed an increase of 2,496 pupils in the primary school population between 2011/12 and 2017/18 and this increase in pupil numbers will start to impact on the secondary phase from 2019 onwards.

One of the areas which will be most impacted upon will be the central planning area. The three schools in this area are all projected to be oversubscribed throughout the projection period. The shortage in 2019 will rise until 2022 and then fall away in subsequent years. There is, therefore, a clear need for expansion of existing schools or the establishment of a new school from 2020 to manage this shortage.

Barnsley's Local Plan, when adopted, will enable the delivery of at least 21,000 homes throughout the local plan period up to 2033. The focus for growth will be within Urban Barnsley (which includes the Central Planning Area) and the anticipated distribution of new homes in the Urban Barnsley area up to 2033 is 9070 homes.

Plans are in place to provide additional places in 2019 in existing schools in the Central Planning Area. As the pressure on places continues to build in 2020 the Local Authority is identifying a plan to provide additional places for 2020 or to work with any potential Free School provider to develop a solution in advance of the proposed opening of a Free School in 2021.

Barnsley Local Authority is, therefore, supportive of a free school application within the Central Planning area of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. A new free school will provide much needed educational facilities within the central area of the Borough and ensure students have access to local provision. We would welcome working with a free school provider who can contribute to raising achievement in Barnsley and meeting the demand for secondary places in good schools.

Yours sincerely

Nina Sleight  
Head of Early Start, Prevention and Sufficiency

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**PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG**

## Appendix E – Letters of support from other local organisations



Our ref CW/Rob Marsh  
22 October 2018  
To whom it may concern

### Free School Proposal

I would like to offer our support to Trinity Academy Trust's Free School Proposal for Barnsley.

Barnsley College provides outstanding education at post-16 in the area and we work closely with all secondary schools. We were eager to hear about the proposal to improve the standard of secondary education and have met with Rob Marsh regarding this.

Indications are that Trinity Academy Barnsley would engage closely with us as a post-16 provider working to inspire students to their future pathways and careers. We have also discussed the challenges around maths and English and the current pass rates in the area which are below national averages. We would welcome the Trust's success rates with children in the basics at the age of 16 which would help build an excellent platform for many of our courses.

Barnsley is an area which needs more good or better provision at secondary level and we are fully behind this proposal.

Yours faithfully

**Christopher Webb**  
Principal & CEO



Barnsley College PO Box 266 Church Street Barnsley South Yorkshire S70 2YW  
Tel: 01226 216 216 Fax: 01226 216 553 [www.barnsley.ac.uk](http://www.barnsley.ac.uk)  
Chief Executive & Principal: Christopher Webb





ST. MARY'S  
ACADEMY TRUST

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Innovation Centre (BBIC)  
Innovation Way  
Wilthorpe  
Barnsley  
S75 1JL  
Tel: 01226 282721  
[www.stmarysacademytrust.co.uk](http://www.stmarysacademytrust.co.uk)

To whom it may concern,

I would like to offer the support of St Mary's Academy Trust to Trinity Academy Trust's Free School Proposal for Barnsley.

As Chief Executive of SMAT I have met with Michael Gosling and Rob Marsh to discuss this exciting proposal which I believe would both improve the standard of Secondary education in Barnsley together with increasing the choice available to parents.

As Chief Executive of seven primaries within Barnsley I share the concerns of other Primary Head Teachers and parents that the current standards of provision are not good enough to offer choice and confidence to parents. Many of our pupils who succeed with us at primary do not go on to achieve success at secondary level. In addition, we have concerns that the rate of exclusions are too high and that the provision for vulnerable pupils needs improving. This application provides capacity, alternative provision and choice to the existing system.

As a Trust we currently work with Trinity through our maths provision (White Rose Maths resources), the quality of this is of a high standard and we look forward to developing strong partnerships with the new free school.

Yours sincerely

Melanie Priestley  
Chief Executive

