

**Consultation on the Relocation of Early Years and reopening of Sixth Form at Atlantic Academy**

**Background**

Notice is given that Aspirations Academies Trust intends to relocate the Preschool and Reception (Early Years) to its main site at Maritime House. It also intends to provide Sixth Form education at its Osprey Quay site. It is proposed that, with effect from the 2018/2019 school year intake, this would be in place.

In order to facilitate the Early Years at Maritime House, the school needs to expand into additional buildings that are currently owned but not used for educating Atlantic pupils. This will include some grounds work to ensure a suitable outside learning environment for Early Years students. No internal work is necessary at Osprey Quay in order to establish a Sixth form other than the replacement of infant sized toilets.

The current admission number for the school is 90 in primary and 150 in secondary. Consultation on reducing the primary PAN to 60 and secondary PAN to 120 is currently open.

It is envisaged the number of places made available in Reception will be 90 for 2018 reducing to 60 from 2019 onwards if the admission number is reduced after the consultation is completed and Sixth Form capacity is planned at 200

 **Why does the school need to relocate Early Years students?**

The Ofsted report of the previous school, IPACA, highlighted the inconsistencies between the two sites, Maritime House and Osprey Quay. A number of issues arose from split sites, including difficulties in ensuring standards across the two sites, senior leaders being unable to monitor and support both sites equally, staff unable to move between sites for regular communication and meetings and different facilities available to support learning between both sites.

Therefore, Atlantic relocated Years 1-4 to Maritime House in Sep 2017, which has had a very positive effect on standards. A recent HMI visit acknowledged the rapid improvement in teaching and standards was in a large part due to the relocation of the primary students to one campus.

At the time of relocating the primary students to Maritime House, there was not suitable space to meet the needs of the Early Years students and it was felt their needs could be best met by remaining in the purpose designed facility at Osprey Quay.

However, the issues experienced due to a split site continue to be a concern and can only be addressed by bringing all students together on one site.

Reception pupils currently only have one year at Osprey Quay before moving to Maritime House in Year 1. By negating the need for this additional transition, the Early Years students will benefit in many ways, including:

* Transition into Year 1 being a lot smoother, with regular opportunities throughout the year to familiarise themselves with the school and particularly focus on transition opportunities in the summer term
* Access to a broader curriculum, with a greater variety of teaching expertise and specialisms to enable more collaboration and sharing and observation of good practice by year‐group teachers and teaching assistants.
* The new location will provide much needed external green space for play and sports, with access to a Sports Hall, and a field area that is solely for use by the Academy rather than the shared field which causes many issues at Osprey Quay.
* Many Early Years students have siblings at Maritime House already, which will ease some of the issues around parents collecting children from both sites. There is ample car parking within the Maritime House site and plenty of cycle and scooter racks.
* Early Years students will benefit from access to the many afterschool clubs that are run at Maritime House and the availability of a Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club which also runs during school holidays.

**Why does the school need to provide a Sixth Form?**

Atlantic Academy Portland is part of the Aspirations Academies Trust which firmly believes in the benefits of all-through, age 4 to 18 education. Atlantic Academy wants to ensure that all young people on the Isle of Portland receive the very best education and this includes education up to the age of 18. The academy is designated an age 4 to 18 school although the predecessor school had agreed to close the sixth form and did not recruit students for 2017/18. Currently many 16 to 18 year olds have to leave the island each day for their education.

Atlantic Academy Portland will open a sixth form provision in September 2018 which will be high quality and unique to the area. There will be a strong focus on employability and working closely with employers on the island. Students will be expected to follow either three A levels or level 3 BTECs in a small range of relevant subjects along with one day a week working on a 10 week long real world project with employers, the Aspirations Employability Portfolio. This portfolio currently operates very successfully in the other seven Aspirations Academies with post 16 students. The A levels will include courses for those with good passes at GCSE in core subjects and the BTECs on offer will include Engineering, Maths, Sciences and Catering/hospitality.

The post 16 provision will be primarily based at Osprey Quay as this is both near the main centres of employment on the island and is close enough to the mainland to attract additional students on to the island. Some post 16 study will also take place at Maritime House.

# How to have your say

Please take the time to read the consultation document. We are interested to hear your views.

You can email us at: consultationoq@atlantic-aspirations.org

The consultation runs between **01 December 2017 – 01 February 2018**.