

Dear Member of the Becton/Silverdale School Communities,

### **Consultation on developing a small specialist post-16 hub**

Until 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 we are openly consulting with all stakeholders on a proposal for Becton Special School and Silverdale School to work in partnership to develop a post-16 specialist hub at Silverdale School. This would mean a small provision, run by Becton School for pupils with special educational needs who, with the right support, can successfully access Silverdale's post-16 curriculum. Please read this newsletter for more details and we would really like to hear your views through the consultation.

### **What is a *small specialist post-16 hub*?**

The hub would be based in the new building at Silverdale. It would provide an offer for up to 30 students when full. The students would be on Becton Special School's roll and overall would be the responsibility of Becton Special School. The staff from Becton would then support the young people with their overall curriculum and the needs outlined in their Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs), as well as supporting them to access the Silverdale post-16 curriculum. Access to the places will be through placement by the local authority as part of a student's EHCP. Students will clearly need to be appropriate for the hub offer – with the right support able to access and be successful within the existing Silverdale post-16 curriculum. Students are likely to have special educational needs relating to communication and interaction (most commonly autism) and social, emotional, and/or mental health needs.

Becton is an Ofsted-rated Good special school with skilled staff who have experience of supporting pupils with complex needs to access the mainstream curriculum. Silverdale is a hugely successful mainstream secondary school with an Ofsted Outstanding post-16 provision. We believe this partnership can deliver an excellent, innovative, and much-needed new provision for a small number of young people in Sheffield.

### **Key messages:**

- The provision will be designed to enable a small cohort of young people achieve their potential through qualifications that they might otherwise struggle to access successfully;
- The Hub should not have any impact on the current Silverdale offer – places would not be reduced for current and future pupils accessing the Silverdale post-16;
- Becton & Silverdale, as well as Nexus MAT and Chorus MAT, are committed to working in partnership to make this a really positive development for all pupils;

- The proposal is supported by Sheffield City Council who would fund the places;
- If the proposal goes ahead, it would open in September 2024;
- We want to hear the views of stakeholders.

So we would like as many families and wider stakeholders as possible to:

- Let us know if you have any concerns or questions about the proposal; and/or,
- Let us know if you are supportive of the hub going ahead.

### **Find out more & tell us what you think**

We are keen to answer your questions and find out what you think. You can:

- Email us questions or comments to [consultation@nexusmat.org](mailto:consultation@nexusmat.org)
- Visit the website at [www.becton.sheffield.sch.uk](http://www.becton.sheffield.sch.uk) - where you can find a simple webform to submit questions or comments at the top right of the front page
- Drop off a written response at school

### **What happens next?**

The consultation will run until 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023. As the formal change would apply to Becton Special School, at the end of the period the Nexus Trust Board of Directors will gather all responses and look to submit the proposal to the Regional Director who will decide the proposal on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education.

Further updates will be forthcoming and the consultation website above will be kept up to date as we go along.

We hope you understand the proposal, the reasons behind it, and trust that this is a genuine consultation – your views are important to us and they can help shape what happens next.

Yours faithfully

Joel Hardwick  
Assistant Chief Executive Officer  
Nexus Multi Academy Trust

Sarah Sims  
Head of Silverdale School  
Chorus Education Trust